Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Gulf Cooperation Council Summit

Bahraini Prime Minister Arrives

NC2212084490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 22 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah arrived in Doha this morning to chair the Bahraini delegation to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit meeting, which will begin work this evening as part of the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council.

Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, and Heir Apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, were at the head of the reception committee. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, the Bahraini prime minister said he hopes the GCC leaders' meeting will succeed. He said the summit meeting comes at a very critical and complicated stage in the history of the GCC countries. It is a stage of difficult challenges requiring that the GCC states overcome the dangers, he said. He also noted that the central issue is to liberate the sister Kuwaiti state from the arbitrary Iraqi occupation and restore legitimacy under the leadership of Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

His highness said the coming stage makes it incumbent on us as GCC members to speak one language at the political, economic, and security levels as a united entity vis-a-vis world groupings and current international changes. [passage omitted]

UAE's Zayid Arrives

NC2212092890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 22 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] arrived in Doha this morning, leading his country's delegation to the 11th summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] which begins this evening.

He was received by Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, shaykhs, ministers, senior Qatari officials, and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah. [passage omitted]

Iran Views Council Performance

LD2212153490 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—An Iranian daily Saturday commented on performance of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC in the past ten years and said its six members have done nothing to deserve sympathy and support of other Muslim nations.

The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' editorializing on the annual (P)GCC summit meet to open in Qatar Saturday, said that the Council is of little significance in political, security and military spheres and that it has only been a good customer for the world's major arms dealers.

Referring to Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, the editorial said that if it was up to Saddam, he would have not hesitated to add the names of the other five vulnerable states to Iraq's list of provinces.

"When the real test came, everything fell apart and foreign armies had to be rushed in to protect Saudi King Fahd—supposed to be the strongest and most influential in the alliance," said the daily referring to presence of nearly half a million men, tanks, bombers and aircraft carriers sent in to safeguard the six-nation royalty.

It criticized the (P)GCC countries for failing to take care of one of their own despite their wealth and influence and wondered how it can care for the oppressed Arab and Muslim nations.

The editorial said that the council was misnamed and added that The Persian Gulf Royalty Protection Council seems more appropriate and will not mislead those who have seen nothing positive come out of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council."

Iran Seeks Role in Gulf Solution

LD2312014290 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] The summit of the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC, is scheduled to open in Doha, capital of Qatar today. This is the eleventh PGCC summit since its establishment in 1981 and the first since the 2 August invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. It is said that, at this session, the leaders of the six PGCC members—namely Oman, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar—will discuss the occupation of Kuwait and its political, military, economic, and security impact on the Persian Gulf region and also the council's new security and defense system.

Prior to this session, defense and foreign ministers of the six members states, at two separate meetings, had prepared preliminaries to the summit and also its agenda. It appears that the most important subject for discussion at the PGCC summit will relate to a new security and defense arrangement which, since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, has drawn the maximum attention of those states.

Although it can be said that the PGCC is a political and defense treaty, none of the members states rushed to extend military help to Kuwait [words indistinct] a member of the council. In the meantime, Saudi Arabia requested for the American troops' deployment in the

region. The presence of U.S. troops within the framework of the multinational forces in the region has been opposed by the people and other countries [as heard] of the area. These regional states and people have never concealed their concern over the presence of the multinational forces, including the U.S. troops, and the probability of their continued stay even after the termination of the Persian Gulf crisis.

They believe that foreign troops must leave the region and also should not have any role in any future security system to be designed for the area. In fact, it must be said that any new defense system should include effective deterrents capable of guaranteeing peace, stability, and security in the region without interference by foreign countries and forces.

Concerns stemming from the U.S. troops presence in the region, and also their likely stay in the future, get intensified when key U.S. officials often talk about the prospect of retention of these forces because of the region's oil reserves and even refer to the (?chances) of U.S. participation in any future security system. Of course, such a plan cannot be acceptable to the regional people. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in its capacity as the biggest country of the region and having the longest coastline along the Persian Gulf, should be included in any new security and defense system to be designed for the area. Also, any new security arrangement in the Persian Gulf region should be designed and (?effected) by the regional states themselves.

Saudi Defense Minister Views Security

NC2312102690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Dec (WAKH)—Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general, has emphasized that security in the Arabian Gulf requires intensified cooperation as well as a new form of coordination among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

In an interview carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY today, the Saudi minister said security in its broader sense is the top priority on the agenda of the 11th summit meeting of GCC leaders currently being held in Doha. He added that the emphasis on the issue of security has been prompted by the schism created in Arab security by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which has posed and continues to pose a threat to the region and its peoples.

Prince Sultan pointed out that the broad concept of security, as seen by Saudi Arabia, must go beyond political and economic security to cover cultural, intellectual, and historical values. By the same token, he said, the GCC's continued effort to safeguard general security is not only imperative but also is the top priority for the council members, he said.

The Saudi defense minister expressed the hope that the Doha summit will succeed in realizing the hopes of the council members, their peoples, and global opinion. He hoped the summit would develop plans to support the council's march in various fields, particularly in defense, security, politics, economics, culture, and social issues.

Responding to a question on military coordination between the GCC members vis-a-vis the military option should the political approach fail, Prince Sultan said the conferees are considering coordination measures in this context and that it is not in the GCC members' interest to disclose them at present.

He reiterated his full confidence that the GCC leaders will adopt sound resolutions which serve the interests of their people and preserve their accomplishments at all levels.

Summit To Reconvene 23 Dec

NC2212194990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1933 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 22 Dec (MENA)—The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] wound up its first closed session this evening. [passage omitted]

The GCC summit is expected to hold another working session tomorrow morning to discuss the report compiled by the ministerial council about the issues submitted to the summit, foremost among them being the issue of Kuwait.

Second Closed Session Begins

NC2312133090 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Their majesties and highnesses, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, held their second closed session this afternoon under the chairmanship of Qatari Amir His Highness Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the GCC leaders will discuss all topics on the agenda. The agency also learned that the Qatari foreign minister, who chaired the current ministerial council session, will submit his report to the GCC leaders today.

Palestinian Affairs

UN Resolution 681 Labeled 'Insufficient'

LD2312192890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] An official spokesman for the PLO has made the following statement concerning UN Security Council Resolution 681:

The PLO considers UN Security Council Resolution No. 681 on the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories insufficient and disproportionate to the volume of massacres, repressive measures, and savage aggressions perpetrated daily by the Israeli occupation authorities against the palestinian people, and

against its Islamic and Christian sanctities. The resolution is also disproportionate to the international responsibility borne by the Security Council to protect international law and implement international legitimacy. It is regrettable that the Security Council is obliged to go along with U.S. pressure after about fifty days of procrastination maneuvering used by the United States to block the resolution or empty it of its substance so that it does not contain a clear mention of specified measures to secure the protection of the Palestinian people, or a fixed date for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

This U.S. position confirms the role of the U.S. Administration in covering up the crimes of Israel and encouraging Israel to continue the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands. Likewise the U.S. Administration, through its control over the formulation of the Security Council resolution, has confirmed the way it implements its double standard norms and criteria on international legitimacy without any consideration for what is right or for justice, particularly regarding a just solution to the question of Palestine and the problems of the Middle East.

The PLO considers that the Security Council, and all international institutions and the international community as a whole, are still obliged to adopt clearer and more specified measures to protect the Palestinian people and to enable them to exercise their right to self-determination. They are also obliged to specify the international conference more clearly, as well as the date of its convention, in order to set up a just and comprehensive peace in the region that would secure security and stability for all.

Officials Cite Pan-Arab Nature of Iraqi Battle

JN2212200390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—Two Palestinian officials have denounced the unjust UN Security Council resolutions imposing siege and aggression on the Iraqi people under direct pressure from the United States.

In statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, the two officials praised President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, given that it is the basis for the just settlement of all the problems in the Arab region, a settlement that will be based on international legitimacy in accordance with a one and not different yardsticks.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau, said that Iraq's battle to confront the unjust U.S. aggression is a pan-Arab battle. [passage omitted]

Malluh condemned the United States for preventing the United Nations from passing a resolution providing international protection for the Palestinian people and obstructing the other international resolutions. [passage omitted]

Malluh emphasized that the revolutionary movements in the Arab region stand by their right to protect the Arab nation's achievements and interests which are embodied in Iraq, the pan-Arab bastion. Malluh said these movements are ready to deal with all eventualities with all their resources and confront all threats and dangers.

Hamdi Matar, member of the PFLP Central Committee, said that the U.S. presence in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] is part of an American scheme to secure Israel's complete protection in the wake of Iraq's victory [over Iran] and growing power. [passage omitted]

Masses Urged To Fight 'American Aggressors'

JN2312120790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has called on the Arab masses and their fighting revolutionary factions to mobilize their capabilities to turn the land of the Arabian Peninsula into a cemetery for the American aggressors.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Habash said: The Arab masses and their progressive nationalist forces will take the liberty to reply to any U.S. aggression against Iraq.

Dr. Habash said if it takes place, the battle with the Americans and Zionists will be a long one and will continue until the liberation of Arab territory from the U.S.-Atlantic presence and a just solution to the Palestine question.

Dr. Habash said this battle will under no circumstances be one of hours or weeks, as Bush wants and hopes.

Dr. Habash called for adhering to President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and making it a basis as well as a strong and suitable starting point for strengthening Arab and international calls for repudiating the double standard policy pursued by the United States the its allies toward international resolutions.

Dr. Habash added: This initiative has gained strong international support on both the official and popular levels, because it has established a realistic link among all the problems and crises afflicting the Arab region. Furthermore, it has given the brave Palestinian intifadah a strong push toward strengthening the struggle against Zionist savagery and coercion and has exposed the United States' two-faced policy on the issues of the region.

Dr. Habash criticized the methods and policies of the U.S. Administration under the present international conditions and its flagrant attempt to appoint itself international policeman.

Dr. Habash noted that by its military presence on Arab territory the Bush administration aims to control Arab oil wealth, believing that whoever controls 66 percent of the world oil reserves necessarily controls the world. He avowed that these imperialist designs are the real U.S.

motives behind the aggression on Iraq, which represents a powerful economic and military power that can challenge and confront the U.S. plundering of Arab oil.

Dr. Habash condemned U.S. policy that seeks to split Arab ranks and abort Arab initiatives to find a peaceful solution to the situation in the Arab Gulf.

Dr. Habash said the U.S.-Atlantic military buildup in the Arab Gulf calls upon us, both the Palestinian resistance and the factions of the Arab liberation movement, to prepare ourselves to confront any criminal aggression by the United States.

Dr. Habash added: We consider ourselves an indivisible part of the front confronting U.S. aggression. We will escalate and inflame the intifadah to inflict the heaviest losses in life and property on the Zionist entity. We consider the battle against the Zionist entity as an important part of the response to U.S. aggression.

Dr. Habash stated that the Palestinian resistance's military forces outside the occupied territory will be ready to reply to U.S. aggression as soon as it takes place.

Dr. Habash condemned the reactionary Arab regimes supporting the U.S. invasion of the holy land, saying they have become propaganda trumpets for U.S. policies.

Dr. Habash referred to the hostile policies pursued by successive U.S. administrations against the Palestinian people and their just cause, and the issues of the Arab nation, saying these policies were always in favor of the Zionist entity which is being provided with military, political, and economic support.

Dr. Habash held the U.S. Administration responsible for disrupting the UN resolutions on the Palestine question and of trying to attack Iraq in order to subjugate the entire Arab region and strike any Arab country that rejects its imperialist and aggressive policies.

Fatah's Al-Hasan Comments

JN2412102590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan has announced that the Palestinian revolution has coordinated with Iraq to confront the U.S. military aggression and to fight in the same trench to achieve a peace that will raise our heads high.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH today, al-Hasan said that Bush should understand that aggression against Iraq will not be easy and that the war everybody is talking about will not be a lightning war. He added: This war will be a fierce one in which all the Arabs will fight on Iraq's side. He said that the Arab masses know very well that any harm [illegible] to Iraq will mean giving a free hand to the Zionist enemy in the region to spread terror and disperse people.

Hani al-Hasan emphasized that the Palestinian revolution will not remain a bystander to U.S. aggression against the Iraqi Army, which has become the main and most effective factor in protecting the Arab arena from the Zionist occupation. He said that the Palestinian revolution forces within and outside the occupied territories and the rebellious Palestinian people in the occupied territories will from a force for the confrontation of the aggressors. [passage omitted]

Abu Iyad Denounces Syrian Torture of Prisoners

JN2412071090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] In Tunis, Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has denounced the escalation of torture campaigns against hundreds of Palestinian detainees in Syrian prisons. He held the Syrian authorities responsible for the protection of the lives of these detainees.

Abu Iyad added that such circumstances have led to the martyrdom of Colonel Muhammad Dawud, Abu-Dawud, in the prison of the Palestinian branch of the Syrian intelligence service in Damascus on 14 December after he was tortured.

Hurani Seeks USSR Review of Mideast Policy

JN2112175790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The PLO, through Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani, has expressed the hope that Shevardnadze's resignation will prompt the Soviet leaders to reconsider their policy toward the Palestinian question and the Gulf crisis, and to refrain from pursuing a policy of provocation in the Middle East which, according to the PLO, had been pursued by the resigning minister.

Algeria

President, Delegation Depart for Talks in Rome

LD2112132390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid left Algiers for Rome this morning in order to continue his mission which took him to some countries of the Middle East and the Arab Maghreb last week. The president is expected to pay a working visit to Paris, Madrid, Morocco, and Mauritania.

President Chadli Bendjedid is accompanied by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Sadek Boussena, the minister of mines and industry, and Mohamed Sahnoun, the diplomatic adviser of president Chadli. [passage omitted]

RCD Secretary General Warns of Civil War

LD2312201990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] The secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, [RCD] Said Saadi held a press conference this evening at the Hotel Ambassadeur during which he spoke of the harrassment he recently faced during a public gathering he held at Batna. Here is a report from our radio correspondent:

The RCD party called a press conference at the Hotel Ambassadeur which was attended by a considerable number of journalists to review the incidents—from his point of view of course—which took place during the party's organization of a popular rally at the hall of Culture at Batna on 17 December.

In his statement at the beginning of his press conference, Said Saadi said that democracy is threatened in Algeria and that the seeds of civil war are being planted. He added that the RCD Party has corroborated its statements on the Batna incidents with a video recording, a copy of which he gave to the TV team.

Said Saadi seized the opportunity to attack the press establishments of the public sector as instruments in the hands of the authorities. He denounced the absence of the police during the incidents terming this a grave matter.

On this occasion, Said Saadi called for the formation of an electoral committee to supervise the course of future elections so that, as he put it, nothing of consequences would happen.

There were numerous questions during the press conference which centered on the measures which the party will take to combat such incidents, and on organizing another rally in the same Batna province.

In regard to the first question, Said Saadi said the RCD will fight such actions with all its strength. With regard to the second question, he reiterated that the RCD plans to return as soon as possible.

Asked if the RCD believes that there is collusion between government institutions and the Islamic Front for Salvation, on the ground that the 10 people who tried to obstruct the party's rally seemed immune [muharramin] and that the security forces failed to intervene, Said Saadi showed reservation in this regard and said that he will confine himself to saying that the party has noticed that on several occasions, the authorities adopted a passive stance.

INA Quotes Ben Bella on Targeting Embassies

JN2212131490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, 22 Dec (INA)—Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella has renewed his call to Arabs and Muslims throughout the world to attack and destroy the interests of all the countries that mobilize their military forces along with U.S. Forces against Iraq once the first spark of the war ignites.

In a statement to INA in Algiers, Ben Bella said that Arab public opinion must act in a manner commensurate with the size of the dangers to pan-Arab security and existence so as to prevent the enemies of the Arab nation from implementing their aggressive plans.

He said the countries participating in the intensive military buildup in the Arabian Peninsula will not be out of reach of the masses anger should the war erupt. At that time, the masses will look for anything as a revenge target. Embassies and all other interests of the countries involved in the aggression will certainly be targets for revenge, which will be legitimate if war breaks out.

He pointed out that the scourge of war is known only by those who have been engaged in wars, and said those who are now calling on and encouraging the United States to ignite war should realize what the price is going to be. Those who will not be burned by the fire will be eliminated by the Arab masses, and all thrones that advocated war or took ignominious positions toward it will collapse.

Ben Bella said the U.S. military presence in the Arabian Gulf is aimed at protecting the Zionist entity against any threat to its presence in the heart of the Arab nation. The Iraqi Army is certainly a constant source of this threat, he said, adding that all other objectives of the U.S. military presence are almost secondary to this one.

He stressed that Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, is today the source of pride and hope for the Arabs; it is a ray of hope in the middle of Arab darkness and fragmentation resulting from the fact that a minority of defeated rulers are dominating the situation in the Arab homeland and have suspicious links with the interests of the enemies of the nation.

If the Arabs want a bright future and a dignified life free from submission and humiliation, he said, they must

support Iraq and view its scientific and technological power as a nucleus for building firm foundations for a better future.

Concluding his statement, Ben Bella saluted the principled and genuine pan-Arab positions of Iraq under President Saddam Husayn and expressed confidence that Iraq will win a splendid victory that maintains the dignity of the Arab nation and safeguards its virtuous lands from the hatred of the villains.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid, Czechoslovak Minister Hold Talks

NC2212162490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Following talks with the Czechoslovak foreign minister [Jiri Dienstbier] today, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that they developments in the Gulf region were discussed. He noted that the two countries seek a peaceful political solution to the Gulf crisis and support U.S. President Bush's initiative for a U.S.-Iraq dialogue, particularly in view of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 678. The two countries, he said, look forward to the start of this dialogue before 15 January so that war may be averted. They also seek the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Iraq-Kuwait dispute.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed the Czechoslovak minister to Egypt, noting this was the first such visit to take place after the political and economic reforms in that country. He praised the firm ties between the two countries.

For his part, the Czechoslovak minister said he will convey greetings from the Czechoslovak president to President Mubarak. He noted that his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid dealt with the European stand on the Gulf situation, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in Czechoslovakia, as well as with ways to enhance bilateral relations in light of the new conditions in Czechoslovakia.

Dienstbier Meets Mubarak, Cheney

NC2312141890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel dealing with international developments, Czechoslovakia's position on the Gulf crisis, and bilteral relations.

Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and foreign minister, handed the message to President Mubarak during a meeting today along with an invitation to visit Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak official stated that he had discussed the Gulf crisis with the president, who explained to him about Egypt's stand on the crisis. He said he had explained Czechoslovakia's position, noting that there can be no compromise over the need for Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait and that he also talked to President Mubarak on economic and trade relations between the two countries, which are joined by longstanding ties. He added: We are currently changing the rules on which we used to base our cooperation, and are strengthening them on the basis of new foundations in line with the changes that have taken place recently in Czechoslovakia. These require cooperation by companies in both countries, particularly since the companies in Czechoslovakia are backed by the state.

It is worth noting that upon learning of the arrival of U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney in Cairo, the Czechoslovak foreign minister asked Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner to arrange for a meeting with him. The meeting was held at the presidential office before President Mubarak received the U.S. defense secretary. The Czechoslovak foreign minister said the meeting dealt with the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the situation in the Gulf, since Czechoslovkaia has a small unit deployed in Saudi Arabia alongside the multinational troops. He added that the discussion also touched on the situation in the Soviet Union and some issues concerning security in Europe.

Asked how war could be avoided in the Gulf, he said that the current situation was caused by Saddam Husayn alone, and the international community cannot accept the aggression's being rewarded.

Asked about his assessment of the chances for peace, he said it all depends on whether or not Saddam Husayn will fully withdraw from Kuwait.

Concluding his statement, the Czechoslovak foreign minister said he had discussed with President Mubarak, as an ex-pilot, the possiblity of Czechoslovakia's selling a number of small aircraft to Egypt.

Defense Secretary Cheney Arrives in Cairo 23 Dec

NC2312095890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney arrived in Cairo this morning from Saudi Arabia to visit Egypt for several hours. He was received at the airport by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production; and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

During the visit, the U.S. defense secretary will discuss the role of the troops participating the U.S. forces in confronting the Iraqi aggression in the Gulf. Cheney is accompanied by General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The U.S. defense secretary arrived in Riyadh on 19 December to inspect the U.S. troops stationed there.

Meets With Mubarak, Departs

NC2312132890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney left Cairo this afternoon after a few hours' visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. He also held talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, who saw Cheney off at the airport.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Arab League's Al-As'ad

NC2312161490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Arab League Acting Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad. Al-As'ad said they had discussed issues related to the completion of the transfer of the Arab League Secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. He asserted that procedures to compensate the League's employees have been completed and that the necessary appropriations have been allocated.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Arab League's Ibrahimi

NC2212122790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general and envoy of the Arab tripartite committee tasked with resolving the Lebanese crisis. They discussed developments in Lebanon during the meeting.

In a statement after the meeting, Ibrahimi said he had briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the developments in Lebanon and the Lebanese Government's efforts to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, and independence. Ibrahimi said he calls on Egypt, as he has called on all the Arab countries, to bolster the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces to enable the legitimate Lebanese establishments to maintain security and stability in the country in the coming stage of reconstruction.

Ghali Comments on Security Council Resolution

NC2112132790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has commented on the UN Security Council resolution pertaining to the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories by saying that it includes a number of measures to improve the Palestinians' security situation there. He added that this resolution is bound to bolster the Palestinian people's demand for their national rights.

Dr. Ghali declared that the refusal to link the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait to the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories must not detract from the need to seek a solution to the Palestinian issue, which is the core of the conflict in the Middle East. He emphasized that Egypt will continue its efforts to attain this objective.

Dr. Ghali added that the statement issued yesterday by the Security Council's president calling for an international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East is a positive step that bolsters the peace process. He noted that Egypt supports these steps for the sake of attaining a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Ghali Comments on Shevardnadze's Resignation

NC2112154290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said he believes that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation will not lead to a change in Soviet foreign policy.

In a statement today he described Egyptian-Soviet relations as close, adding that the two countries have a political will to bolster these relations in various spheres.

Ghali Receives Libyan Affairs Coordinator

NC2312161390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 dec 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, coordinator of Libyan affairs in Cairo, who said that they had discussed the situation of Libyans in Chad. He noted that the Libyan Government has granted Egyptians the right to work and own property without any conditions or restrictions. He said Libya is concluding contracts with Egyptians for work in the specializations Libya requires.

Deployment in Saudi Arabia Approaches 27,000

NC2112182390 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Egypt yesterday sent 1,900 troops with tanks to Saudi Arabia to reinforce soldiers deployed there as part of a multinational force stationed in the Gulf region since Iraq's 2 August invasion of Kuwait. Defense Ministry sources said that these troops are part of an additional 7,000 soldiers which President Husni Mubarak has pledged to send to beef up the 20,000-strong Egyptian force in the kingdom. The sources said the troops who left yesterday are part of the 4th Armored Division and that they are equipped with tanks. Another 3,100 soldiers, also part of this division, left for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday with tanks.

By the end of this month, Egypt will have a total of 27,000 men in the kingdom. Another 2,250 are deployed in the United Arab Emirates.

Mubarak sent the troops because of the 10 August Arab summit resolution that sanctioned the dispatch of Arab forces to any Gulf state seeking assistance.

Security Measures Stepped Up in Suez Canal

NC2312173590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Security sources in Ismailia said today that Egypt has decided to step up its security measures in the Suez Canal following information that acts of sabotage will be carried out to block the Canal in the event of war in the Gulf region. The same sources added that they have been warned that ships loaded with consignments of sand from the Gulf and the Far East might be sunk deliberately in the Canal should military operations break out in the Gulf.

Iraq's 'Intransigence,' Prospects of War Viewed

JN2312162890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Is It Too Late?"]

[Text] The Gulf crisis is gradually approaching a climax, and people are now betting on either sudden devastation or sudden relaxation. Some argue that Saddam Husayn's firmness has already been put to the test in the case of Iran, and that it turned into softness and surrender overnight. Despite his might and his oppression, Saddam knows how to bend to the wind at the appropriate time, not when his country and people are threatened but when his regime and he personally are on the edge of the cliff.

But those who bet on war believe that even the current opportunity, which Saddam believes he will continue to have until the last moment, is in fact too late. They note that the beginning of the 45 days—from 1 December, when the Security Council passed a resolution allowing the use of force against Iraq, to 15 January, when the deadline set for Saddam expires—have already shown this. Saddam's procrastination in setting dates for Iraqi-U.S. meetings, the continued arrogance and obstinacy in the way he addresses the world, and his continuing buildup and reinforcements in Kuwait do not give a clear impression that he might change his position at the eleventh hour. Indeed, they clearly prove to the opposing coalition that even if Saddam ultimately replaces banter with seriousness and gives up his ploys, he is not to be trusted again, and there is no guarantee he will not do it again if left alone.

Of course the coalition is insisting that Saddam withdraw, and it is tempting him with guarantees that he will not be attacked if he does so. But as time goes by without Iraq showing signs of response—and with the emergence of growing indications that Iraq is heightening its arrogance, intransigence, and insistence on defying the world—feelings are getting stronger that the world's reaction must be a deterrent lesson for a country whose rulers want to lead the region, perhaps the world, toward disaster. Here barriers separating Saddam as regime and individual from Iraq as power and example will fall, and regrettably the coalition will become one for salvation from an obvious evil. Its slogan will become: Now or never.

Sudanese Students Stage Hunger Strike at Embassy

EA2212092490 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The Sudanese Students Association in Egypt is (?continuing) its hunger strike at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo to protest the putschist government's decision to halt their allowances which were a [word indistinct] from the Southern Region's budget. The strike is entering its third day, while the number of participating students has reached 28 in the embassy and 600 outside. The association had issued (?80) memoranda last month calling for restoring the monthly allowances the students depend on for their (?studies).

The Sudanese Embassy had asked the Egyptian security forces to disperse the sit-in by force, but this has not materialized. After a meeting between the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the Sudanese ambassador, who was called from the embassy, the embassy confirmed that it had made contacts with Brigadier Martin Malwal, member of the military council, who promised to solve the problem. [passage indistinct]

The students insisted on continuing the strike and sit-in, and all the Sudanese students in Egypt began to arrive at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo to participate in the sit-in until the problem of restoring monthly allowances is totally resolved. The Higher Education Council decided to halt the allowances because of the recommendations of the General Sudanese Students Union, which is dominated by the [word indistinct] of the Islamic Front. Other reports from Cairo say that students allied to the Islamic Front have preconditioned (?fulfilling) the students' demands with stopping their strike.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Belgian Delegation Discuss Hostages

LD2312212390 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution today received a delegation of the Belgian Volksunie Party, which is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified speaker in French with Arabic translation] Your mediation previously resulted in facilitating the question of hostages, the release of hostages. Do you think that you could do something regarding the four remaining Belgians?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I previously made an effort, I made appeals. A response was given: a number of hostages

were released, including some who were from the Red Cross. In fact I had made appeals to unidentified, unknown groups, and I thank those groups who responded without [word indistinct]. As far as the family mentioned by the Belgian delegation is concerned, I do not have sufficient information about it, but I will request information, and I will make every necessary effort to contribute to their release. Our problem is that we are making appeals to unknown groups. The groups that undertake such action do not declare their true identity. They know us but we do not know them. We, therefore, make general appeals. We will make an effort, and we very much regret such activities. But we have already said that the Palestine problem is the cause. The Palestinian people are doing everything to draw the attention of the world. Regrettably, they are the innocent victims of this. But the Palestinians also consider themselves innocent victims. All efforts must be made for a common solution.

[Unidentified speaker] Your Excellency, has our king's speech in Algeria prepared the way for the release of hostages? He addressed the Palestinian question and respects all the resolutions that have been taken.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We appreciate Belgium's position generally.

[Unidentified speaker] Your Excellency, some of the hostages, including the French, have been released, but none of the Belgians have been released. Is there a difference as far as you are concerned between the French and the Belgians?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The question should be addressed to the party that released the hostages. It was not us who released the hostages, and we did not hold the hostages for the question to be addressed to us. They have no right to differentiate between the Belgians and the French. [passage omitted]

Further on Belgian Hostages

LD2312180790 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has promised to do everything possible to free the Belgian hostages of the Silco [ship seized with Houtekins family aboard], who, in principle, are in Lebanon. He made this promise during a meeting with the representatives of the Volksunie [Belgian political party], headed by its president Jaak Gabriels, accompanied by Senator Hans de Belder. With regard to the Gulf crisis Colonel al-Qadhdhafi called for support next year for the Belgian delegation to the Security Council. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi proposes to call for an extended meeting of the Security Council, and Belgium will become a member of this council from January.

U.S. Allegation of Support for 'Terrorism' Denied

LD2212182790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Dec—The spokesman of the U.S. State Department, Richard Boucher, stated to the press the day before yesterday that the Great Jamahiriyah supports terrorism and has relations with Palestinian organizations that have connections with terrorism, as the U.S. spokesman put it.

Replying to the statement by the U.S. State Department's spokesman, a responsible source at the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has stated the following:

(1) The Great Jamahiriyah refutes the unfounded allegations and accusations made by the spokesman of the U.S. State Department.

(2) The People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau wishes to draw the attention of international public opinion to the fact that the U.S. statements, with the false allegations they contain, are acts intended to pave the way and prepare for a new chapter in U.S. aggressive policy against the Great Jamahiriyah.

(3) Through such statements and through U.S. television and press, the United States is trying to cover up its involvement in the criminal act of piracy it committed against the Libyan POW's, whom it transferred by force to a third country in contravention of the general agreements on the treatement of POW's, and the provisions of international law and international usage in this respect.

(4) The Great Jamahiriyah has denied having any relations at all with terrorism in the past, considering its firm attitude toward terrorism, and has ended the presence of the Palestinian organizations which the U.S. spokesman mentioned—taking into consideration in this regard the views of the PLO, and without this termination affecting its constant stance toward the cause of the Palestinian people. Thus what the United States states in this regard has no basis in reality.

Ugandan President Arrives in Tripoli

LD2312171190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Excerpt] President Yoweri Museveni, the president of the Republic of Uganda and current OAU chairman, arrived in Tripoli today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Algeria's Bendjedid Visits Nouakchott

Arrives 23 Dec

AB2312162990 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] (?The newscast this Sunday) is dominated by the visit of the Algerian head of state and current chairman of the Maghreb Arab Union, Chadli Bendjedid, to Nouakchott. (?The discussions that the illustrious guest) will hold with Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Council for National Salvation

[CMSN] and head of state, will essentially center on issues of common interest, the Gulf crisis, and the need to find a peaceful Arab solution to it.

Upon his arrival at the airport, the Algerian head of state was met at his plane by the CMSN chairman and head of state, who was accompanied (?by civilian and military officials).

[Passage omitted] The Mauritanian delegation is made up of the national education minister acting for the foreign affairs and cooperation minister, the secretary of state in charge of internal affairs, the permanent undersecretary to the CMSN chairman and head of state, the Mauritanian ambassador to Algeria, and the head of state's (?political adviser). As for the Algerian delegation, in addition to President Chadli Bendjedid, it is made up of the foreign affairs minister and the Algerian head of state's diplomatic adviser.

Meets President Taya

LD2312173590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Tete-a-tete talks took place at the presidential palace in Nouakchott this afternoon between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Mauritanian President, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

During the talks, which were expanded to include the foreign ministers of the two countries, they reviewed in particular the results of President Bendjedid's tour of a number of capitals in the Middle East, Europe, the Gulf, and the Arab Maghreb.

AFP Reports on Meeting

AB2312200690 Paris AFP in English 1952 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 23 (AFP)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid held talks here Sunday with Mauritanian leader Colonel Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya and said that a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis "is still possible."

Mr. Chadli, on the last leg of a tour which has also taken him to Rome, Paris, Madrid and Rabat, denied during a press conference having said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was ready to make concessions. But, he added: "An Arab solution remains possible and can serve as the basis for an international solution."

Colonel Taya said that he hoped Mr. Chadli would be successful in his efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

Mauritania, an Islamic republic, has condemned Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait but has also denounced the presence of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia.

Departs 23 Dec

LD2312230790 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party and president of the fraternal People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, left the capital this evening after a visit to our country. [passage omitted]

At the VIP lounge President Bendjedid answered questions by the national press. He stressed that his current tour was aimed at trying to avert the outbreak of a disastrous war in the Gulf, and lauded the march of Maghreb unity. He affirmed that Mauritanian- Algerian relations were solid. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Spanish Prime Minister's Visit Continues

Addresses Rabat Dinner

LD2112134190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0700 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Human problems should be one of our fundamental concerns—this phrase was uttered last night by Felipe Gonzalez in Rabat during the dinner hosted in his honor by the Moroccan prime minister. He said it in reference to the concern felt by the Spanish Government over the fact that foreign citizens—among them Moroccans—live in precarious circumstances in our country. Following this premise, Felipe Gonzalez said it is essential to safeguard the dignity of people, satisfy social and labor demands, and condemn all acts of racism or xenophobia. This came during a speech in which he referred to situations in our country, to human problems, the dignity of persons, and the legitimacy of social and labor demands, something to be grateful about at a time when all this has been violated here, in Morocco, and denounced by the international news media, a situation on which, although perhaps in other terms, Felipe Gonzalez was briefed yesterday during the first meeting with his Moroccan counterpart, and a situation which has not prevented this high-level Spanish-Moroccan meeting which began yesterday in Rabat from being described as cordial by the government spokeswoman, Rosa Conde. [passage omitted]

Meets Socialist Leader

LD2112135190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Report by Rabat correspondent Rosa Jimenez]

[Text] The meeting—outside the official program—which Felipe Gonzalez held here, in Rabat, with the Socialist leader Abderrahim Bouabid ended a few minutes ago. They spent almost 60 minutes reviewing—according to statements by the Moroccan politician—

Spanish-Moroccan bilateral relations and discussing the Spanish economic process. Asked if he discussed with the Spanish prime minister the subject of human rights and social problems, socialist leader Bouabid said:

[Begin Bouabid recording in French] We talked about democracy, in general. As you know, democracy is not imported: it has to be created from within the country. [end recording]

On whether they discussed the recent events in Fes, Bouabid was brief, but emphatic: No, we did not discuss the problem. The prime minister and the main body of our delegation are now holding their respective working sessions: Felipe Gonzalez, with his counterpart, Laraki, and the ministers with the respective Moroccan ministers.

Monetary Credits To Increase

LD2112141190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will meet King Hasan II, of Morocco, today, the final engagement of the bilateral summit which began yesterday and which will conclude this afternoon with a joint statement. We now have a report on this from special correspondent Rosa Jimenez:

[Jimenez] Spain will increase by 25 billion pesetas its credit to Morocco from the present 125 billion if this amount runs out before 1992, the date when it is due to expire. The plenary meeting which followed the sectorial meetings brought to an end the high-level meeting which Spaniards and Moroccans have been holding here in Rabat since yesterday. Two meetings between the two prime ministers alone and others between the ministers of foreign affairs, economy, industry, and culture have brought up to date and boosted Spanish-Moroccan cooperation for the next few months, a time in which, following this meeting in Rabat, a number of concrete agreements will be finalized. [passage omitted]

Joint Statement Issued

LD2112233490 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed, the crown prince, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid received at the Royal Court the Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who was accompanied by an official ministerial delegation.

At the Hall of the Throne, His Majesty together with the Spanish prime minister presided over the signing of the joint Moroccan-Spanish statement. [video shows the ceremonies]

The working visit by the Spanish prime minister was crowned with the audience granted to him by His Majesty King Hassan II at the Royal Court. [passage omitted]

The joint statement was read by His Majesty's advisor Ahmed Ben Souda. [video shows Ahmed Ben Souda reading the statement]

On the occasion of the official visit paid by His Majesty King Hassan II to Spain 25-27 September 1989, the two sides agreed to develop regular contacts between the two countries at the highest level. For this purpose and at the invitation of Azzedine Laraki, the Moroccan prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, paid a visit to Morocco 20-21 December 1990 heading an important ministerial delegation, the composition of which will be listed in an annex to the statement. [passage omitted]

During the visit, the talks were conducted in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding and enabled the two sides to study in depth the situation of the Moroccan-Spanish relations and to exchange views about regional and international relations.

On this occasion they agreed to establish a permanent dialogue which would help in establishing a qualitative harmonious development of the existing distinguished relations between the two countries.

For this purpose and at the end of this visit, the two sides agreed to announce the following statement:

Instigated by the mutual will to enhance their bilateral relations in response to the wish expressed by the two heads of state; perceiving that mutual understanding and cooperation would facilitate the establishment of stability in the specially important geographical region to which they belong; out of their interest in establishing peace, security, and prosperity in the Mediterranean basin, especially in its western wing, and in deepening mutual understanding among the peoples of this region; out of their wish to develop and deepen the traditional friendship, understanding, and cooperation ties which have bound the two countries for centuries; out of their conviction that increasing the permanent dialogue at all levels between the officials of both countries will help in creating a new dynamism in their bilateral relations; out of their will to strengthen and diversify their cooperation within a framework of fruitful partnership for the benefit of their peoples; and perceiving the prospects for cooperation which would be opened by the future relations between the EEC and the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union], the two sides agreed the following:

First: The two sides agree to do everything to facilitate rapprochement between the Moroccan and the Spanish peoples, widen the field of understanding between them, and strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation which they have forged throughout history. This would be by exploiting all the opportunities granted by the wealth of their civilizations for the sake of developing their joint cultural and human heritage.

Second: The two sides promise to develop and intensify their political dialogue and to consult each other about the issues of joint interest, whether bilateral, regional or international.

Third: The two sides attach great importance to bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic, social, cultural, technological, and banking fields. Therefore, the two sides are ready to study the situation of all the suitable institutions necessary for giving a new push forward to bilateral relations and for benefitting from the important resources in both countries. In order to underline the importance they attach to fulfilling the aforementioned aims, the two sides emphasize their will, announced in the joint statement issued in Madrid on 27 September 1989, which specified organizing contacts at the highest level between the two countries at least once a year alternately between the two countries. In the same direction, the two sides also stress their will to continue the regular contacts between the ministers of foreign affairs of both countries, which should be held at least once a year; and to intensify the exchange of government visits in all fields and at all levels. They also promise to facilitate and encourage the contacts and exchange of visits especially between parliamentarians, [word indistinct] organizations, private sector officials, and university, scientific, and cultural organizations.

Fifth: In understanding the historical, cultural, and civilized ties binding them, the two sides promise to consolidate their activities using suitable means in the field of teaching the Spanish language and civilization in Morocco, and the Arabic language and civilization in Spain; to facilitate benefitting from the educational systems in both countries; to deepen contacts between Spanish and Moroccan university institutions; to develop their cooperation in the audio-visual field, especially television.

Sixth: They promise to attach special importance to the human factor, which constitutes one of the pillars of all procedures of harmonious rapprochement and fruitful cooperation, by providing suitable conditions for the residence and work for the Moroccan and Spanish communities in both countries.

Seventh: Because of the encouraging positive results of implementing the current cadre agreement on economic and finacial cooperation between the two countries, the two sides decided to develop and diversify their cooperation in this field. For this purpose they:

A. Express their firm will to take the necessary actions and to adopt suitable measures in order to widen economic and financial cooperation between the two countries, to rationalize investments; to implement joint direct Spanish investments; and to encourage Spanish enterprises and Spanish economic activities in all the Moroccan economic sectors.

B. They decided to exert special effort toward better coordination between the public institutions and professional organizations of both countries concerned with rationalizing investment and exchanges.

C. Concerning the financial quotas agreed in the cadre agreement, the two sides agreed the need to consecrate them in a progressive way with the growth of exchanges toward a tangible contribution by Spanish enterprises in Morocco's economic development.

Eighth: The two sides consider that the linking of the networks of both countries in all fields of communications, electricity, meteorology, gas, etc are necessary for fulfilling all the aims of cooperation between them, for which they will dedicate all the necessary means and efforts.

Nineth: The two sides reiterate their will to work toward accomplishing the continental link between Morocco and Spain across Gibraltar. The two countries appreciate the benefits of this project not only for their bilateral relations, but also for the African, Arab, and European countries. For this purpose, the concerned departments of both countries will all work toward carrying out together draft studies in this field.

Tenth: The two sides reiterate their commitment to the respect of international law and the UN Charter, especially the principles specified in the international declaration on human rights concerning equality between peoples; equality of sovereignty between countries; noninterference and settling disputes by peaceful means. The two sides agreed to work together toward the establishment of a comprehensive and permanent framework to strengthen their relations. For this purpose they will engage in the necessary work toward preparing a treaty aimed at strengthening the ties of friendship, goodneighborliness, and cooperation between them. This treaty will aim at increasing rapprochement between the two peoples and deepening the ties between Morocco and Spain. It will also contribute to developing the relations between the AMU and EEC countries.

Issued in Rabat on 3 Jumada al-Thani 1411 AH corresponding to 21 December 1990.

[Signed] In the name of the Moroccan kingdom: Minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Abdellatif Filali,

[Signed] In the name of the Spanish kingdom: Minister of foreign affairs, Francisco Fernandez. [passage omitted]

Departs 21 Dec

LD2212232190 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 22 (MAP)—Head of the Spanish government Felipe Gonzalez left Rabat Friday evening, ending his two-day state visit to Morocco made on the invitation of Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki.

In a departure statement, Gonzalez voiced satisfaction over his visit to Morocco which, he said, made it possible to strengthen relations between the two countries, especially in the areas of economy and culture, and to exchange viewpoints on current issues.

This visit, Gonzalez went on, was also an opportunity to examine a number of projects of common interest and define their funding mechanisms.

Regarding energy and telecommunication, the close contacts between officials of the two countries gave a new impetus to cooperation in the two fields, the Spanish leader said.

On his talks with King Hassan II, Gonzalez said these were enriching and were an opportunity to tackle a wide range of issues both at the regional and international levels.

Dealing with the Gulf crisis, the president voiced hope for a peaceful settlement of this crisis and called for further sustained efforts in this respect.

Gonzalez and Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki have earlier this Friday held a meeting here after which they co-chaired a working session that included members of the two countries' ministerial delegations.

During the meeting, Laraki and Gonzalez were briefed on the results of the sectorial ministerial meetings held on Friday morning at the Foreign Ministry, the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Energy and Mining and at the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The two parties have on this occasion expressed satisfaction at the development of cooperation between Morocco and Spain, especially after the visit by King Hassan II to Spain.

Algerian President Visits Morocco, Meets King

LD2312073590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived on 22 December in the evening in Morocco. The Algerian president's aircraft landed at Rabat-Sale airport at 2100. King Hassan II was awaiting his arrival. [passage omitted]

The motorcade of King Hassan II and the Algerian president went to Soussi Palace where tete—a-tete talks took place between the King and the Algerian president.

The King, accompanied by Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamad and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, hosted a dinner in honor of the Algerian president. [passage omitted]

King Hassan II then saw off his honored guest.

Rabat Starts Mass Trials of Strikers

LD2012182190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] In Morocco, hardly five days after the disturbances and clashes which have left many victims, Rabat has started mass trials of those who responded to the call for a general strike. This is at a time when the opposition is calling for the dropping of legal proceedings and the release of all detainees. In Tangier, Fes, and Rabat, hundreds of those the Moroccan Government accuse of committing several crimes—among which are insurrection, beating, injury, and violation of state security—were brought before the courts. Most of those tried are young, among them trade unionists and journalists, while the opposition in parliament and the most prominent unions stress the illegitimate nature of the investigation committee, which was formed by the government and comprises the Supreme Court chairman and representatives of the executive.

Meanwhile, concerning the Moroccan people's tragedy, today's issue of AL-WATAN, citing the Moroccan opposition daily AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI, says that 10 million Moroccans live below poverty level, and prices increased at a rate of 300 percent between 1973 and 1990.

Authorities Deny Torturing Demonstrators

LD2112184190 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, 21 Dec (MAP)—Radio France Internationale (RFI) announced in one of its bulletins on Thursday [20 December] that some of those arrested and presented to the court in Fes were tortured before appearing before the court. The Moroccan authorities concerned categorically deny these allegations which they consider as lies and say that the people arrested were presented to the court after having been caught red-handed while carrying out violent actions. All of those arrested are enjoying full legal rights and their defense is being conducted by a number of lawyers. The hearings are public and the press is present. One notes that the information was broadcast a few hours before the start of the trial in Fes during which neither the defense nor any other party mentioned what was announced by RFI.

Sudan

SPLA Alleges Iraqi Missiles in Country

EA2312213090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1340 GMT 23 Dec 90

[From the "With the Sudanese Man in the Street" program]

[Excerpts] I wish you good health for all time during the country's celebrations of the glorious birthday [Christmas]. During these celebrations, we would also like to remind the Sudanese masses that they should be

cautious, because another massacre may happen as was carried out by Al-Bashir during the celebrations of Ramadan. [passage omitted]

Now to the last thing, Sudanese man in the street. It is very important that we warn the Sudanese man in the street that none of us know what will happen on 15 January in the Gulf. This arises from the recent warning issued to Iraq. It is better that you dig trenches in your houses, because Al-Bashir has made Sudan part of Iraq.

So in the event that anything happens in the Gulf, Sudan will not be able to avoid it. You know this, because in Sudan now there are Iraqi missiles to be used to hit Egypt and Saudi Arabia from behind should war break out. The Egyptians and Saudis and all the forces of different nationalities in Saudi Arabia are aware of this plan. So from now on you should understand this properly: that the junta has put Sudan into a mess, and unless another government comes in before the 15th to topple the junta, Sudan may not escape this mess.

Radio SPLA on Government 'Lie' About Garang

EA2312094690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Dec 90

[From the "From East to West" program]

[Text] Today I want to tell you something about the commentary by the National Islamic Front [NIF] and junta government criminals in Khartoum. They claimed in a commentary on their Radio Omcartoon [pun on Radio Omdurman, Radio Khartoum, and cartoon] this week that the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] intended to return Sudan to the epochs of Alawa, Nabata, and the Cush Kingdoms. Their second claim was that Comrade John Garang visited Israel.

This talk of theirs—saying that the SPLM intended to return Sudan to the eras of the Alawa, Nabata, Cush, Bajrawiyyah, Funj, (Ajabwah), and other kingdoms of our forefathers, who made our history and the history of this our country by their blood, who died for us and for our land—this talk of the NIF—I want to tell you that they are trying to say that the SPLM is bent on bringing Christianity and Zionism to Sudan. That is what they intended, and that is why they lied by claiming that Comrade John Garang had gone to Israel.

Regarding these two points, I would like to ask: Why should we forget our history and our original forefathers like (Ajabnah), Meroe, (Budwe), etc.? Why should we forget them and find out why those states faded? Why should we not remind ourselves and deplore the despicable acts perpetrated during the eras of those forefathers of ours which continue to be perpetrated now—in matters such as the slave trade and exterminating native citizens—as happened at Lagowa in southern Kurdufan, at Kabkabiyyah in Darfur, at Jabal Marrah in Darfur, and at Biem, etc. Why should they want us to forget our history before the advent of the Arabs in Sudan and such events as the Turkish-Egyptian military campaign, the British, and other happenings? Why? So that we should yield and say we have no rights? Why? Is it because they want to say that we the Nubah, Fur, Ingassana, Southerners, Hadendawa, and Baqqarah have no rights in this land and that we are all aliens?

The second point is about their lie that Comrade John Garang had gone to Israel. Do they want to say that Comrade John Garang intends to implement Zionism and Christianity in Sudan in the same way as they implemented the laws of looting, killing, and robbery in Sudan in the name of the lofty Islamic creed, which they falsified?

Here in Sudan, before the advent of the Arabs, people had their religions in Christian states and other kingdoms. There were also some states without religions, but they all believed in a power, which is why they came into being. That power was nothing else but Almighty God. Before the advent of the divine religions—Christianity and Islam—and the coming of apostles to us, our Sudanese forefathers believed in God, worshipped him, and adhered to the religions in their divergent creeds.

Comrade John Garang did not need to go to Israel to bring us new Christianity and Zionism from Israel so that we could become their followers and he could become, like 'Umar al-Bashir and Hasan al- Turabi, a trader in religion. This is nonsense. The motive behind this lie is that the NIF and the junta want to stir up passions to obtain material support, arms, and money from some Arab countries and the Islamic world and from the criminals who trade in the Arab and Palestinian causes.

That is why they spread rumors saying that Comrade John Garang had struck a deal with the Israelis for him to plot against the Palestinian cause. They wanted to make the Arabs, Muslims, and all peaceloving people abhor the SPLM and Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], which call for peace, justice, and equality for our country and for all nations.

Here I want to assure you all and the entire Arab and Islamic worlds that the SPLM/SPLA are more in tune with the Arab and Islamic worlds on solving Arab and Muslim problems than the spurious NIF government in Khartoum is. The SPLM/SPLA profoundly believes in Sudan's unity despite the diversity of nationalities and creeds in Sudan. Our cause is that we will fight on our own without any interference or foreign aid until the junta people go away and we replace them with peace, justice, and equality for all the people of our country, the Arab and Islamic world in general and all the countries of the world, regardless of race, color, religion, or tribe, etc. We are not like those individuals in Khartoum who bring in and train mercenaries to wage war against our country and kill our people indiscriminately. We must join hands—the Fur, Nubah, Baqqarah, Halfawiyyin, Southerners, Hadendawah, Masalit, Qurun, Funj, and all the other tribes—to build our country anew, to create a new Sudan.

Rebels Claim Southern Party Leaders Tortured

EA2312173290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] These days, a number of politicians from the leadership of southern Sudanese political parties are being tortured in Khartoum. They are: Eliaba James Surur, Isaiah Kulang Mabior, Samuel Aru Bol, Stanislas (Kau), Peter Cyrillo, Albino Akol Akol, and Ezekiel Machuei Kodi.

News carried by the Africa Watch bulletin pertaining to human rights reported that the Sudan Council of Churches in Khartoum had complained to Amnesty International that some of these politicians had earlier been appointed to the southern peace committee, which was supposed to have met the committee of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

Army Claims Victory Against Rebels in Equatoria

EA2312175090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 December (SUNA)—The Armed Forces scored a victory against the outlaws in Bongo in Equatoria region last week and inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment. This was revealed to SUNA today by a military source at the General Command of the people's Armed Forces. He added that a large number of the dead from the outlaws were found, including the force commander, who had the rank of captain. Many other outlaws were wounded. A vehicle carrying a 106 mm gun was destroyed.

The Armed Forces also seized a Vorno and 15 rounds of ammunition. [words indistinct] in addition to large quantities of ammunition and Kalashnikov rifles [word indistinct] and an RPG [rocket propelled grenade].

Iran Finances Highway Construction Project

EA2212165090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Implementation of the Kosti-Juba peace highway project financed by the Ministry of Construction Jihad in the Islamic Republic of Iran will soon commence, according to Mr. 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the board of directors of the Public Corporation for Highways and Bridges. He added that repair work was still in progress on the Khartoum-Port Sudan highway, noting that the project was being jointly financed by the Government of Sudan and the World Bank for a sum of $103,000,000. The chairman of the board of directors said work on the Kosti-al-Ubayyid highway would be completed next May.

Bahrain

UK State Minister Comments on Gulf, Middle East

NC2212090590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH)—British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Martin Hogg has asserted that the British Government is determined to continue its policy which rejects Iraq's approach in the Gulf. He stressed that his country is prepared to implement UN Security Council resolutions militarily in collaboration with other countries if Saddam Husayn does not withdraw his troops from Kuwait before 15 January.

In an interview published today by the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Hogg underlined the need for the Iraqi army to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait to avert a war, which would be inevitable if withdrawals are not effected.

On the situation in the Middle East, Hogg emphasized the need for an international peace conference. He expressed the belief, however, that this approach may not succeed if Israel is not willing to participate in and provide a favorable atmosphere for the success of that conference.

He said the Middle East will continue to be vulnerable to tension and unrest until an acceptable formula is worked out to resolve the two sides of the problem—granting the Palestinians the right to self-determination and Israel the right to live in peace within secure borders.

He added that Israel has to change its declared policy and move closer to a solution through certain concessions so that a just and permanent peace can be established in the region.

The British state minister expressed his optimism about the current conditions in Lebanon. He called for Israeli troop withdrawal from south Lebanon so that the legitimate authority can be expanded to all the Lebanese territories.

Prime Minister Speaks to Saudi Chief Editors

NC2412110790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 24 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah has asserted that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait created the need for a Gulf deterrent force to defend the region's people and protect their achievements, as well as prevent a repetition of events.

In an interview at his Doha Sheraton residence with chief editors of Saudi newspapers, his highness said we have great hopes that the Gulf summit will fulfill the aspirations of the region's countries by adopting resolutions inspired by the belief in one destiny and the awareness of the common dangers surrounding the region.

His highness added that the firm stand adopted by Saudi Arabia and the rapid reaction of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, since the outset of the crisis has helped prevent the tragedy from occurring in other Gulf countries that were also exposed to aggression.

His highness stressed the need for a clear insight into the future of the Gulf region, taking into account the lessons learned from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He emphasized that any future vision must be steered toward full integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries based on clear principles that turn the region into an economic and political power in the face of the challenges of the new age.

The Bahraini prime minister expressed the hope that Iraq will respond to the international call for peace, withdrawal from Kuwait, and for restoring the legitimate Kuwaiti Government under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, so that a destructive war involving the greatest fire power can be averted.

His highness said the international community has given Iraq sufficient time to decide to withdraw. He stressed that withdrawal must be effected as soon as possible so that the Kuwaiti people can return to their homeland and reconstruct what the occupation has destroyed.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Postpones Moscow Visit

LD2112142490 London KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Moscow, 21 Dec (KUNA)—It was officially announced here today that the scheduled visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to the Soviet Union next Monday has been postponed. A new date will be set later.

'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Du'ayj, ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Moscow, attributed the postponement of the visit to "the sudden resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze." Al- Du'ayj expressed "Shaykh Sabah's regret at the resignation of the Soviet minister, with whom he had an excellent relationship." Du'ayj pointed out that the international community has lost a remarkable person. [passage omitted]

Minister Welcomes Amnesty Report Scoring Iraq

PM2112134190 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p3

[Unattributed report: "Minister Al-'Awadi Comments on Amnesty International Report"]

[Text] Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi yesterday made a statement in London commenting on Amnesty International's report on human rights violations in Kuwait.

Al-'Awadi said: "We wish to express our gratitude to Amnesty International for its relentless and valuable efforts aimed at exposing human rights violations in Kuwait.

"We share the organization's concern regarding the thousands of citizens who have been tortured, killed, and ill-treated in Kuwait and Iraq, people whose fate we thought would be forgotten after the release of the Western hostages.

"Kuwait and its people are still being held hostage under savage conditions described in detail in the report. We have information about Kuwaiti citizens detained by the occupation authorities and placed in strategic installations, like the Western hostages before them, with the occupation authorities trying to use them as sandbags and human shields.

"The organization's report notes that the Iraqi forces' favorite killing method is to take the victim to his doorstep and then shoot him in the back of the head. These victims are our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters.

"No sane person would agree to bargain with a man like (Saddam Husayn) [parentheses as published] and his aggressive regime."

Concluding his statement, Minister al-'Awadi said: The report paints a picture of savagery that defies imagination.

We are fully hopeful and confident that the organization will continue to follow and monitor that tragic and serious situation. The organization's work underscores the importance of the international community, its firm unified position, and its determination to force Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Oil Industry Publication Cites 'Power Struggle'

LD2212123190 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 22 Dec 90 p 9

[By Harvey Morris: "Al-Sabah Family May Lose Out in Kuwaiti Power Struggle"]

[Text] A power struggle has broken out within the leadership of the Kuwaiti exile community which may lead to a reshuffle of the government at the expense of the ruling al-Sabah family, a London newsletter reported yesterday.

ENERGY COMPASS, a specialist oil industry publication, said at least 12 officials of the Kuwait Investment Office [KIO] had resigned in a dispute over control and policy. The KIO administers what is believed to amount to up to $100bn (52bn pounds sterling) of Kuwaiti funds abroad and is, in effect, the teasury of exiled Kuwait. The newsletter said alternates to key government ministers had also been appointed in a move that may well foreshadow a big cabinet reshuffle.

The impetus for the moves appears to come from the constitutionalist wing of the Kuwaiti establishment, which was pushing for political change before Iraq invaded the emirate on 2 August. One of the targets is Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-Sabah, a former oil minister and the present Finance Minister, who has been travelling almost constantly since the invasion. The dissidents appear to have taken advantage of the Gulf tradition of naming alternates to stand in for ministers when they travel. A Kuwaiti source said of the Shaykh and another minister, Habib Joha Hayad: "They are on their way out."

The newsletter interpreted the changes as a challenge by young technocrats who believe the government and its financial operations need overhauling to make them more accountable to the public. The emergence of a meritocratic government, ENERGY COMPASS said, was seen as facilitating the possibility of a peaceful settlement with Iraq.

The newsletter said it understood the changes had been cleared with the Saudi government and that Washington had been kept informed. It said the power struggle was affecting the upper echelons of the London-based KIO, the resignations, led by the deputy managing director, Salah al-Mawasharji, were in protest at the way investment operations were being run by the KIO chairman, Shaykh Fahad Muhammad al-Sabah.

At stake, said ENERGY COMPASS, were the issues of who will run Kuwait once it is liberated and who will control its principal assets—the KIO and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation—which have traditionally been regarded as virtually the private property of the Sabah family. It said it was not yet clear how the power struggle would affect the prospects for a negotiated outcome of the Gulf crisis, given that immediately after the invasion there were strong suggestions that Baghdad might be amenable to a settlement involving the replacement of the Emir and the ceding of key northern districts of the emirate. The abdication of the Emir in favour of the popular Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Shaykh Sa'ad, might make Iraq more favourably inclined towards a negotiated withdrawal, ENERGY COMPASS said.

Saudi Arabia

Joint Forces Commander on Gulf Security

NC2412125390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Yanbu', 24 Dec (MENA)—Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces in Saudi Arabia, praised Egypt's leadership and people for their verbal and material support to Saudi Arabia.

The commander of the joint forces praised the Egyptian Armed Forces and said that Egyptian military thinking has changed international military tactics significantly, as well as the way air defense, tanks, and armored vehicles are used.

Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz believes that a war in the Gulf cannot be started by mistake, saying that the joint forces have fully developed the instruments of command and control and are engaged in real cooperation.

In an interview with Egyptian military reporters visiting Saudi Arabia, Lt. Gen. Khalid said that the arrival of the

Egyptian 4th Armored Division to Saudi Arabia has provided sufficient support to the theater of operations for the time being. [passage omitted]

In his capacity as a military man, the commander of the joint forces in Saudi Arabia answered a question about Egypt and Saudi Arabia's possible role following the aggression to prevent its repetition. He said: I believe that Saudi Arabia and Egypt have a large, leading role in this. We should not, however, forget the roles of other sisterly countries. Our unity of opinion and frankness in avoiding mistakes and learning from our experiences make me optimistic.

Asked if he believes that there should be cooperation in the military field, for example, in coordination and military training, Lt. Gen. Khalid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said: The military is very important, for no strong policy can exist without military backing and presence to support the political leadership. Our current training, joint exercises, the exchange of military delegations, current and future plans, including joint industrialization, are all based on this concept. We, the military, have learned from the current painful situation. This situation should lead to closer military cooperation, and joint industrialization is one aspect of such cooperation.

Asked if he believes that the military option is likely now that Saddam Husayn has rejected all political and peaceful initiatives and means to resolve the crisis, Lt. Gen. Khalid said: I am a military commander and my task is to execute any orders given to me by my commander. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian military reporters told the commander of the joint forces that some people believe that the failure to implement the Joint Defense Pact among Arab countries was responsible for what happened. The reporters asked if there are plans to form a strong Arab Gulf army supported by other countries. Lt. Gen. Khalid said: Strengthening any forces in any country is a major demand and something for which there is always planning. However, no one could have guessed that a brother would invade his brother. This was a tragedy for the Arab and Islamic worlds, and we have learned from it. The needed support for the Gulf Cooperation Council or other sisterly countries will be taken into account, and we are already working on plans for that.

Asked about how the crisis has reflected on the strength of Desert Shield, Lt. Gen. Khalid said: We will make more use of the lessons we have learned. We have to strengthen these forces, but we have to depend on those who are like us and who are our brothers in the Arab countries, particularly Egypt.

Noting that no one is in control of all the instruments of regional conflict [al-sira' bi al-mantiqah laysa hunaka man yahkum adawatahu], the reporters asked Lt. Gen. Khalid if he conceives a way in which war could start by mistake because of the lack of control. The commander answered: Our measures for control and command are fully developed. There is genuine coordination in the command of friendly and sisterly countries. I do not think there will be any mistakes. All the conceivable war scenarios have been analyzed and taken into account.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Meets Saudi Commander

LD2112221190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 21 Dec (SPA)—[Kuwaiti Defense Minister] Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah conferred in al-Ta'if this evening with His Royal Highness Prince Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, commander of the joint forces and military operations, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended, on the Kuwaiti side, by Major General Jabir al-Sabah, assistant chief of staff; Mr. Hammud al-Utaybi, under secretary of the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry; Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min; Staff Brig. Gen. Badr Bursali, director of the defense minister's office; and Colonel al-Salih, chief of the Riyadh Military Bureau.

They examined at this meeting matters of common interest revolving around the current situation. [passage omitted]

Air Raid Drills Held in Eastern Cities

NC2312172990 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Dec 23 (AFP)—Cities throughout the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, which borders Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, have begun testing air raid sirens.

The province's Civil Defense Department began the drills Saturday in al-Dammam and al-Qatif to acquaint residents with different tones of sirens, Saudi officials said Sunday.

Exercises were also held Sunday in al-Hasa and al-Khubar, while more were due Monday in al-Jubayl, Ra's Tanura and Abqaiq.

On Tuesday they are scheduled in Ra's al-Khafji, al-Nu'ariyah and Hafar al-Batin, according to officials.

Saudi press accounts, quoting civil defense officials, said people must be able to distinguish between three tones: one indicating that danger is imminent, another that an air raid is occurring and a third that means the alert has ended.

Tens of thousands of troops from the United States, Britain, France, and several Arab, African and Asian countries are deployed in the Saudi desert.

The multinational force has been authorized by the United Nations to take military action to dislodge Iraqi troops from Kuwait if they have not left the emirate by January 15.

Yemen

'Peace Ship' Arrives En Route to Iraq

EA2112140690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The peace ship Ibn Khaldoon arrived this evening in al-Hudaydah port [on the Yemeni Red Sea coast] at 1730 [1430 GMT] from Sudan. Aboard it were Arab and foreign women leaders who will head for Aden port tomorrow afternoon, Friday, en route to Basrah. [passage omitted] Leading those who received it were brothers Tahir al-Maqalih, undersecretary of the governorate; 'Ali Hamid Sharaf, undersecretary of the General Corporation for Ports and Maritime Affairs; 'Abd al-Husayn al-Rafi'i, the Republic of Iraq's ambassador in Sanaa; members of the Iraqi Embassy; and members of the leaderships of the Higher People's Committee and the General Union of Yemeni Women.

When the ship stopped, popular detachments chanted acclamations and slogans welcoming the messengers of peace and calling for peace, opposition to war, dialogue, and discarding the language of war. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon travels under the slogan Milk and Medicine for Every Human Being and that numerous personalities of various nationalities, including the leaders of Arab and international women's unions, as well as journalists and media personnel from various countries, are involved with it. This extensive mass participation in the peace ship reaffirms women's role and their effective contribution, confirming their stand on the issues of war and peace and their service to the aspirations of the peoples of our Arab nation and its stand that rejects the American and foreign intervention in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula. The participation of the Arab woman in solving the issues of the region highlights the women's role in contributing their share toward breaking the inhuman blockade imposed on the children, women, and people of Iraq and silencing the war drums that are being beaten by circles that are hostile to the peoples of our Arab nation.

Proceeds to Aden

EA2212200890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] The peace ship Ibn Khaldoon arrived at Aden from al-Hudaydah this afternoon on its way to Basrah. On arrival at Aden international port, the ship was accorded a warm official and popular reception. Leading the reception were brothers Sa'id Salih Salim, member of the Council of Deputies and governor of Aden Governorate; Salih Sha'if, first secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party Aden branch; Husayn Jawi, first secretary of the branch of the General People's Congress in Aden; 'Abd al-Rahman (?Mahyub), deputy head of the Higher Popular Committee for the Defense of Iraq and the Arab nation; 'Uthman Kamarani, head of the Executive Bureau of the Local People's Council in the governorate; 'Abdallah Abu al-Hunud, consul general of the state of Palestine in Aden; activist Intisar al-Wazir Umm Jihad, member of the Fatah movement Central Committee in charge of social affairs and care of the Palestinian revolution's martyr families; the Iraqi consul in Aden; members of the popular committee in support of the Palestinian community; Fawziyah Nu'man, head of the Yemeni Women's Union; and political, literary, and information personalities. There were also a large number of women and children.

The activist sister Intisar al-Wazir Umm Jihad, member of the Fatah movement Central Committee in charge of social affairs and care of the Palestinian revolution's martyr families, stressed that by entering the fourth year of the intifadah, the Palestinian people were passing through an important stage in their history more fiery and determined to continue the daring intifadah in spite of all the difficulties, repression, terrorism, and suffering to which they were subjected inside the occupied Arab territory.

In an exclusive interview for the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA, she said the Palestinian people are determined to continue their struggle until victory is won and the Zionist occupiers routed. They would continue the struggle until liberation is achieved and they are able to set up their independent state on their national territory under the PLO's leadership.

On the recent UN resolution regarding the protection of the Palestinians inside the occupied territory, she said it was a step toward attaining implementation of the UN resolutions on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. However, the resolution was insufficient. She said U.S. hegemony over the UN Security Council must end or an end must be put to it. There should be adherence to international legitimacy in this connection.

She expressed much appreciation for the role played by Yemen in attaining this resolution and its continuous efforts in support of the Palestinian cause on all international fora.

Departs for Iraq

EA2312211890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The peace ship Ibn Khaldoon left Aden this evening at 1700 [1400 GMT] on its way to Umm Qasr, Basrah, in the Iraqi Republic. [passage omitted]

Saddam Interviewed by German Television

JN2212165590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1337 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by unidentified German television correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President: The world and international press consider you the most dangerous man in the world. Do you see this as a compliment, and how will it effect you?

[Saddam] The press has its opinion. We respect an opinion when it comes from objectivity, regardless of how close or far the opinion is from a true description or accurate judgment. As you know, things are pretty mixed up these days. But, after having seen Iraq and Saddam Husayn, you could express your own opinion.

[Correspondent] I will be able to at the end of the interview.

[Saddam] Yes, and I do not want you to give your opinion now. What I mean is for you to give your opinion in your own surroundings.

[Correspondent] We will tell the world, but the majority of the world is against your invasion of Kuwait. So what are you going to say about this invasion?

[Saddam] We are fully convinced of all our measures and procedures before and after 2 August.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, would you allow me to expand on my question?

[Saddam] At your service.

[Correspondent] Many countries have condemned Iraq. Is that something usual for you?

[Saddam] Naturally, as a human being and a politician, I was and still am working to have more friends than enemies. In our international relationships, our friends are more numerous than our foes. As for the so-called Gulf crisis, there are many inter- related issues. Among these issues is the mixing of the political and humanitarian view of the matter with the narrow legal and technical view. If the matter were viewed from the narrow legal outlook, we could disagree with many, or many would disagree with us. But if things were viewed from a wider perspective, with a humanitarian and political outlook that is free from bias, we believe that the vast majority of the world would be on our side. In order to keep the matter from being as abstract as it seems, let us remind you, as a German: Throughout the world, who was advocating German unity five years ago? Was not the whole world for a divided Germany?

[Correspondent] There is a simple difference: German unity was made peacefully, whereas in the case of Kuwait there was an invasion.

[Saddam] If peaceful means had been given the chance to take their course, Iraq would not have faced the decision of accepting the unity of Kuwait with old Iraq in accordance with the statement made by the provisional Kuwaiti government. For instance, in 1938, the Kuwaiti executive council twice decided to unite with the mother country, but the English rejected that and the council was dissolved. Thus, democratic practices were oppressed.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, in the year 1968...

[Saddam, interrupting] 1938.

[Correspondent] The Kuwaiti parliament demanded unity of Iraq...

[Saddam, interrupting] It was not a parliament, but an executive council representing the figures and people on whom the then Shaykh of Kuwait was depending while under British protection.

[Correspondent] Is force the only way in the Middle East to attain results?

[Saddam] No, on the contrary. Force must not be used except when other means fail in a case where others are intending to usurp an obvious right.

[Correspondent] Let's talk about the topics of the hour. The date December 15 was set for a meeting with U.S. President Bush and for holding talks with the U.S. Administration. You cancelled the appointment with the United States. Do you believe that this cancellation is the cause of the eruption of war?

[Saddam] We have not cancelled the appointment. The media did not report events accurately. We said that the U.S. President can name any day or hour for a meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister in Washington, or in any place he deems fit on U.S. territory. Our foreign minister will attend at the time and the place set.

But if the U.S. President has the right to name the date that suits him for our foreign minister, the president of the Iraqi state also has the right to name the date he deems fit to receive Secretary of State Baker. But the U.S. President wants to set the date for receiving our foreign minister as well as the date for the Iraqi president to receive his secretary of state. We reject this logic.

[Correspondent] The U.S. President complained that you had the time to meet with Muhammad Ali but you do not have the time to meet with his secretary of state.

[Saddam] I did not say that I will not make time for dialogue with the U.S. secretary of state or any state. But it is a matter of principle. Should the U.S. President make Saddam Husayn's appointments, or should Saddam Husayn as the Iraqi president make his own appointments?

As for us, it is all the same when it comes to human standards. These standards are not defined by color. Is it

because Muhammad Ali is black that the U.S. President should disregard him? Or because he is black I had the time to meet with him but I cannot find the time to meet with the white Baker as the U.S. President wishes?

I also met with [Jesse] Jackson, and he is also black. And from the human value point of view, either one could have a higher human value because he is closer to God than Baker or than Mr. Bush. But from the political point of view, we respect whoever comes to hold a dialogue with us. We will give him ample time to hold this dialogue. But we ourselves—as is the right of all the heads of all states—should set the date for that.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that there will be more dialogue?

[Saddam] As far as we are concerned, we did not close the doors of dialogue. We wish to hold the dialogue, because without dialogue there can be no way to reach an understanding.

[Correspondent] A dialogue is a good start. If you were asked for concessions would you give them and if you refuse to give concessions does this mean that you are playing with war?

[Saddam] Why not ask this question to Bush, the aggressor? We did not go to you, the West. You came and occupied a holy land. The U.S. Army came here and gave itself the right to act as international police and crossed well over 10,000 km to occupy the land of the Muslims' holy places.

So Bush must be asked: Why are you not flexible about the ridiculous slogans you have coined, thus giving you and Iraq a chance for a dialogue of equals to reach a deep understanding of the problems of the entire region's security? Thus, we say that Bush must leave our lands. If there are outstanding problems or issues among the Arabs, the Arabs are more capable than non-Arabs to resolve their issues among themselves. If a problem arises in Europe for instance, would you let us, the Arabs, resolve it if we asked to? I believe our opinion would be ridiculed, not because we are incapable of giving a mature or accurate opinion, but because we would be told that Europe, and not the Arabs, should solve its problems, though the Arabs are one nation and Europe has many nations.

[Correspondent] The Arab world is divided into several fronts. Do you think an Arab solution to this issue is conceivable?

[Saddam] No judgment should be based on results for which the Arabs are not responsible. Who divided the Arabs? America. America is now in the region as a policeman raising a stick, even against those it calls friends and we the Arabs call agents. It is raising the stick against them so that they can not say a single thing contrary to the planned strategy or the tactics of this issue.

[Correspondent] Enemies and foes blame you, saying that your invasion of Kuwait divided the Arab camp, thus inviting the United States into the region.

[Saddam] No. He who searches for an excuse will find it everytime. Why did the United State not come into the region when Hafiz al-Asad invaded Lebanon? Is not the United States the sponsor of the al-Ta'if agreements, which were imposed on the Lebanese people through its agents in Saudi Ara'bia? So why the double standard? Iraq was unified after a communique was issued by the provisional Kuwaiti government. You may say that the provisional Kuwaiti government is made up of officers, or is the work of Iraq. But we consider any one of them to be more honorable than any of the former Kuwaiti rulers. They are youth who harbor what the youth have, in terms of good ideas and serious stands toward their people and nation.

[Correspondent] The Germans and Europeans do not really understand this point, namely that there was a group of officers who wanted to unite with the state which invaded them. In Germany they do not believe this.

[Saddam] If they do not believe that, it is something else. But the officers are like me and you. They think, eat, drink, sleep, love, and get annoyed. They are human beings and not an invention of the angels. Perhaps in Germany they say these officers contacted Iraq and agreed on how the army would enter, et cetera. This is a whole seperate issue that I do not want to get into its details. However, I say clearly that Kuwait is Iraqi. That Kuwait is Iraqi is not an invention. Saddam Husayn is not the only Iraqi ruler who said and believed that Kuwait is Iraqi.

All the Kings of Iraq took measures and stands—which are recorded and known and we can provide you with documents—that Kuwait is Iraqi.

Ghazi, king of Iraq, was killed because he wanted to unite Kuwait with Iraq. This is a fact. He was killed by the Britons. Nuri al- Sa'id, a friend of Britain, was an Iraqi prime minister until 1958. He proposed the return of Kuwait to Iraq and Kuwait's unity with Iraq at the Baghdad Pact meeting held in Turkey and attended by U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. In 1961, then ruler of Iraq 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim, a friend of the Soviet Union, issued a constitutional decree annexing Kuwait as a district of the Basrah Governorate. He appointed the shaykh of Kuwait as district officer. He moved the Iraqi army to implement this decree but Britain was quicker and stronger, and unity was not achieved between Iraq and Kuwait. This is a part of Kuwait's history. Therefore, Kuwait being part of Iraq is not an invention, regardless of the agreement or disagreement in political views between Iraq and other international parties.

[Correspondent] This is the crux of the problem. Without an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, there will be war.

[Saddam] We do not accept conditions imposed from outside Iraq and from outside the Arab homeland. Therefore, the problem of the United States and those who support it is not a humanitarian problem but an oil problem. If it has a humanitarian aspect, they would not have humiliated the UN Security Council. If the humanitarian aspect is the basis, they would have viewed the issues of the region and of the world with the same standard. Why has Bush not warned Israel, which is occupying Arab land in the Golan and which has occupied Palestine since 1948?

Do you not notice that the Security Council has been debating a simple issue of how to provide protection for the Zionist-occupied people of Palestine, without being able to pass a resolution, including the holding of an international conference to look into the Palestinian issue? The Security Council is unable to pass such a resolution because of the U.S. stand.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, this is a matter of power, and Iraq is not a superpower...

[Saddam, interrupting] This is the issue. Yes.

[Correspondent] Do you not consider the Iraqi insistence to be suicide?

[Saddam] No, we are Muslims and do not believe in suicide. We believe that God alone plays a role in man's birth, and it is he who plays the decisive role in man's death. A human being should not end his life because we believe that by such an act, he destroys a life deliberately, which is something of a protest against God's will to endow man with life. Why are these narrow measures? I mean some Westerners' measures are very narrow. They suppose that as long as America is a superpower, when it challenges Iraq and the sincere Arabs, although right is on the side of Iraq and the honest Arabs and Muslims, America must win. Have you thought for a moment that America might be defeated as we are believing? Had you considered such a question and imagined what would happpen if America lost, perhaps some politicians would have been more modest in dealing with Iraq and with the Arabs' usurped rights.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you said that the Americans have watched many Rambo films and that they can not fight a war. By this, I think that you play down the Americans' prestige or power.

[Saddam] I have not said that they have seen many Rambo films and that therefore they cannot wage a war. I believe outright that if any human being in the world, including the American people, feels that the U.S. right has been usurped and that he has no choice but to use arms, he would use such arms efficiently. But the question here is that what is the right which Iraq usurped from the United States of America? Iraq has usurped no right from the United States, nor did it threaten its security and people. Thus, this war is one of aggression. We have experienced wars and know that a fighter who does not rely on a firm sense of right will collapse after a while. Therefore, we are sure that if President Bush pushes things toward war and wages war against us—his war of aggression which he is planning—once five thousand of his troops die, he will not be able to continue the war.

Why? Not because the Americans are not good fighters but because Bush is not a good leader. In other words, he is pushing people to death without reason although ways of survival are open through thousands of other means. What will lead him to these means? The right guidance is a direct, deep, and frank dialogue. Is Vietnam a superpower? The answer of course, according to the accepted standards, is no. But was the oppressive force which sought to subjugate Vietnam not defeated? Why? Because the oppressive force was wrong and Vietnam was right.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I have the impression that you are playing for time to retain Kuwait. Is this not dangerous?

[Saddam] Had you said that you respect time and are letting time play its human role in peace, I would have answered you by saying yes. But if you say that I play for time, we do not like playing. We like seriousness and a clear and direct act based on profound conviction. Since 2 August and even before 2 August, we have been acting according to this standard. In any case, he who gives time a chance to bring the situation closer to peace is the wise man, not the one who shortens time to drive the situation to war. Give me a little chance to soften the words. As a German and an European, I ask you: Have you thought to ask a specific question and answer it without fear of America? What would Europe lose humanly, economically, and politically if Kuwait were unified with Iraq? What would Europe win if America were to control the whole oil region in the Mediterranean? Have you asked yourselves this questions as Europeans? Had you asked yourselves this question and thought and answered without fear of America, Europe would have been on Iraq's side even if this led Europe to fight alongside Iraq. But may God vanquish fear and the intricate interests which the peoples cannot resist and from which few people benefit.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I am not a politician, and I cannot answer this question.

[Saddam, interrupting] A journalist and not a politician! Can you see to what extent fear has gripped you? Are you afraid—and you are in Iraq, in Baghdad, which is standing fast in the face of oppression. Despite this, you are afraid. So how would it be for the politicians in Germany, England, or France.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I repeat what I have said. I am not a politician, and I posed the question and I would like an answer to it. The question is: American intelligence has said of you that you have a talent for survival. I am not afraid of the Americans; I will pose my questions. Do you consider this praise?

[Saddam] This question does not disturb the Americans. Give me another question that would disturb the Americans. I will, of course, answer your question. I just wanted to joke with you a little.

[Correspondent] If you do not want to answer this question, I will pose another question.

[Saddam] I did not say that I will not answer. I said that I will answer this question. But I say to you that this question does not disturb American intelligence, I think. For a person to survive, this is a matter that is in God's hands. I have not read such a statement by American intelligence. But if they mean that we have lived through hardships and survived, this matter is related to our history, the history of our people, and the history of the strugglers and mujahidin in Iraq.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the U.S. President has compared you to Hitler. Do you consider this an insult or a compliment?

[Saddam] As German people, you can evaluate your history, where you were wrong and where you were right, and who was wrong and who was right among your leaders. It is not in our ethics to believe that Arab Muslims attack anyone who falls off the back of his horse. Our ethics always teach us—and our forefathers have taught us before we had become politicians—that it is impermissible to attack a horseman except while he is on his horse or when a sword is drawn in one's face. Therefore, I do not want to talk about the dead. President Bush's specialty is to talk about the dead. I talk about the living. I say that Bush is a bad example by any human standard of domination over mankind and the application of dictatorship against the people's will.

Is not the dictator the one who wants to control the world? Or is it he who stays in his country, among his own people? Is the dictator the one who raises the slogans of peace, as is being done in Iraq, or is the dictator the one who raises the slogans of war and threats? Apparently numerous western criteria have been exposed. The slogans of human rights, the call to freedom, talk about democracy, and balanced human relations have been exposed. This battle has exposed every ephemeral thing in the world. Consider those who are Bush's friends. Bush's friend—or perhaps another description should be used—is Fahd. Fahd was not democratically elected to rule. There is no house of representatives in his country. As for the others, some of them are so backward they do not read or write. These are Bush's friends. Bush is not raising the slogan of delivering the Palestinian people from occupation. He does not respect people's views. Bush, for example, does not respect the views of all the Islamic peoples. He does not respect the views of the 200-million strong Arab nation. All the Arabs and all the Muslims do not support Fahd. They support Iraq because Iraq defends their values. They do not support the one with 70 wives—Jabir, the former shaykh of Kuwait. They support Iraq. He who does not respect people's views is the dictator. He who respects people's views is the democrat. He who advocates the application of unified human standards to occupation, occupiers, excesses, and those who commit excesses is the democrat. He who brings out of his pocket, or his safe, a different standard for each event is the dictator.

Please allow me to speak at length in my answers. I speak from the premise that I respect you and the German people. It is not permissible, therefore, to give you brief answers that do not express my cause as clearly as I wish. I must give you answers that clarify my cause well.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I do not want to argue with you about democracy. I think that the President Bush will be taken to account by the American people if he fails in this crisis. You have called for a holy war. Was it not wrong to call for a holy war?

[Saddam] I have called for a holy peace. Holy peace requires men to defend values in the face of calls for war by the aggressors.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, if I were to ask you whether Iraq has an atomic bomb, you will deny it. But some German companies have said that Iraq will be able to possess a nuclear bomb in 1991. This is what a German scientist has said. Are these illusions?

[Saddam] You can depend on the view which you think is more correct [as heard], whether it is statements you have heard in Iraq or what the German scientist said.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I have not heard this in Iraq.

[Saddam] What?

[Interpreter] That Iraq will possess a nuclear bomb in 1991.

[Saddam] No one in Iraq has said this.

[Correspondent] But I have heard this ...

[Saddam, interrupting, says to interpreter] You should have translated precisely.

[Correspondent] I have heard this from the German scientist who worked in Iraq at the nuclear reactor. He said that Iraq can have and use a nuclear bomb by 1991.

[Saddam] Does it worry you whether the Arabs have a nuclear bomb now or in 20 years?

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I am here to ask questions. I cannot evaluate this.

[Saddam] A stand is based on my question. I will tell you. If this matter worries someone, why does he not worry about Israel's having the nuclear bomb?

[Correspondent] Do you mind if I carry this question further? Will Iraq possess a nuclear bomb next year?

[Saddam] I do not mind at all. Feel totally free to ask questions. Just give us freedom to answer them. Do not become Bushy [preceding word in English] in exerting pressure on us, in not giving us the freedom to answer. I am just teasing you. [Correspondent] Mr. President, you currently possess the fifth strongest army in the world. In addition, you possess various types of weapons, including chemical and biological weapons. This is in addition to your possible possession of nuclear weapons. Will your neighbors not be afraid of that?

[Saddam] Regardless of the classification given to our army— when one says it is the fifth army in the world, this means there are four other larger and stronger armies in the world. If this army is unacceptable, then you should also reject those armies ranked as stronger than ours.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that if a peaceful solution is reached, disarmament must follow. Are you willing to accept disarmament?

[Saddam] Ask me this question after peace is attained. We are now at a stage when Bush is beating the drums of war. He has set midnight 15 January as the deadline. Therefore, Bush is still speaking of war. When there is talk of peace, there is nothing to prevent every concerned party in the world from asking a question. It will be answered. However, every response to a question depends on the circumstances. When peace is established, we will answer this question. At any rate, we do not accept anyone's determining for us what we do in our own country. We do not accept having anyone tell us what to eat, when to get up in the morning, when to go to sleep, and how to conduct foreign and domestic policy. We agree that dealings with us must be carried out according to general human criteria and on the basis of international legitimacy, on the condition that these criteria be respected primarily by the people who want to speak about international legitimacy.

[Correspondent] Israel has said that it will not accept solutions at its expense and that it will act against Iraq. Do you accept this threat, Mr. President?

[Saddam] This is Israel's view. If you respect Israel's view when it merely says it accepts this or rejects that, this is very duplicitous. Here I mean Bush and his allies.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, in your view, what will the probable solution be? According to the American viewpoint, there will be no solution without a withdrawal from Kuwait.

[Saddam] We also have a viewpoint. We are also human beings, and God created us as he created Bush. Under the same rule, God has created...[Saddam changes thought] and perhaps we may be of more use to humanity than President Bush or those who are allying themselves with him to drive the world to war. I say that the world also must respect our view. When you speak about Bush's view—he said this and stated that—you should also mention that Iraq said this and spoke about that. We consider our rights to be equal by the same standard as the U.S. President's rights. When talking about issues, such issues must be discussed by the two parties within a framework based on dialogue. Therefore, we have said that the genuine solution that would maintain peace would look into all the region's issues and treat them with one standard, not with duplicitious views and standards. In the 12 August initiative, we have spoken in detail about the solution we envisage. There is no balanced political solution without a deep dialogue conducted on an equal footing.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, once again let me try to ask a question. In the past weeks and months we have been used to hearing about surprises from you. Will there be a withdrawal from Kuwait on the 15th of next month?

[Saddam] No withdrawal.

[Correspondent] But the U.S. defense secretary has said that there will be a war if there is no withdrawal.

[Saddam] Human and other losses will be borne by those who advocate and urge war. God will be with us, and the defeatist will be defeated.

[Correspondent] My last question: There is an Arab saying, "The sword finishes the work of the tongue." Will the sword finish the Kuwait issue?

[Saddam] I have not heard of such a saying, but I know that all Arab proverbs concentrate on wisdom, right, justice, and equality. If right and higher values are subjected to the rival's sword, the claimant of the right must unsheathe his sword. Anyhow, when the last scene is one of peace and wisdom, that is better than all the scenes of wrongful wars. The last scene of justice defending itself by strong forearms and chests full of faith is better than all scenes of aggressive wars.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[Saddam] Thank you. I am pleased with this interview. I hope you will convey the Iraqi people's and my greetings to the friendly people of Germany as well as our congratulations to them on their unity, which enabled them to attain their humanity as they wished. Thank you.

Saddam Says Tel Aviv 'First Target' in War

JN2412055790 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said in an interview that Tel Aviv would be his country's first target if war broke out in the Gulf. Spanish television channel (Telecnico) quoted President Saddam as saying he would make Israel's largest city his first target, even if Israel were not involved in an attack on Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

Commenting on this week's surprise resignaton of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, President Saddam said Shevardnadze had become the victim of his

obedience of to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The Iraqi leader appealed to Spain to break United Nations sanctions against his country, as it did in 1972 when it broke a blockade imposed on Iraq by the United Nations after Baghdad nationalized its country's oil resources.

U.S., 'Zionist' Heads 'Will Be Crushed'

JN2412101990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the heads of the American and Zionist invaders and occupiers will be crushed and their legs will be chopped off to end the desecration of the holy lands of the Arabs and Muslims. In an editorial today, the paper says: Those who believe they can lash out at Iraq, its people, and its citizens should know full well that the hands of the Iraqis, together with all free people and believers, can punish them wherever they are, and strong blows will be directed at the lethal nerve of the U.S. Administration and its aggressive alliance.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the 400,000 American and Western fighters deployed by Bush on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and on the warships in the Arabian Gulf waters will turn into piles of corpses littering the land and waters of the region and only very few of those about whom they are boasting will return to America. The paper says that Iraq will neither be lenient nor merciful with those coming from far distance.

The paper stresses that the U.S. Administration should understand well that their mean servants are worth nothing compared to the rights of Iraq, the Arabs, and the Muslims. They are no more than agent servants of Washington and Tel Aviv and retarded plunderers who have allowed themselves to become destructive tools in the region.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Let Bush and his allies understand this. Otherwise, they should expect from us a historic punishment if they insist on lashing out against Saddam Husayn's Iraq, the brave Iraq which is leading the gathering of the believers.

Salih Reportedly Threatens Using Chemical Weapons

JN2212173190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Following President Saddam Husayn's declaration that Iraq would not withdraw from Kuwait, Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih announced today in Baghdad that the Iraqi Army will use all types of its weapons to defend itself. He added that Iraq does not possess nuclear weapons but that chemical weapons are also effective.

Salih reasserted that Kuwait is Iraqi territory. He added: We will not give it up. He also pointed out that the Iraqi forces will not allow a lightning war, as President Bush believes. He also said: We are neither Panama nor Grenada, and we will make the war a very costly and protracted one.

Paper Says UN 681 'Disgraceful U.S. Resolution'

JN2212114690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has described UN Security Council Resolution 681 as a disgraceful U.S. resolution.

In today's issue, the paper adds: As soon as the weak U.S. resolution No. 681 was passed by the Security Council Thursday night, the criminal Shamir said verbatim: This resolution will simply be added to a series of ignored similar resolutions placed in the UN archives.

The paper continues: Shamir rejected and expressed disdain for the resolution and put it in the archives because the U.S. Administration protects the Zionist entity and supplies it with all that it wants to continue its nuisance in the region and its threat to the Arab nation's security.

The paper explains that the U.S. Administration resorted to maneuvers at the UN Security Council for the past 22 days because Bush wanted to spare the petty traitors—the Arab rulers stationed in the same trench with him in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] against the Arab nation—any embarrassment.

The paper says that this weak resolution, and the weakest possible statement, is a disgrace in itself for the U.S. Administration, which stirs up a great hubbub when talking about peoples' rights and international legitimacy.

The paper adds: Here is Bush and his Security Council proving once again the extent of his double standards when dealing with international and Arab issues. He and his ally Yitzhaq Shamir are supplying further evidence of their disrespect for the Arab nation's rights and international legitimacy. Undoubtedly, for purposes of useless deception, the Bush administration and its agent and lowly followers will try to dwell upon Resolution 681 and the need for Shamir to abide by it. Meanwhile, Shamir will scorn those followers covertly and the U.S. Council overtly.

Concluding its article, the paper says: We say a final word to Bush: Our nation, the rebelling Palestinian people, and the Iraqis confronting tyranny and tyrants have never relied on the Security Council. They rely on their arms and determination to wrench their rights in full from the teeth of the Zionist-imperialist beast.

Army Group Said Behind Shevardnadze Departure

JN2312144790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned from an informed international source that attempts to oust the Soviet foreign and interior ministers were led by a group of young Army officers responding to domestic and military pressures. The source added that the Viktor group comes from Soviet intelligence and is named after its leader, who heads the missile corps in the military.

The group is believed to be sponsored by influential government individuals in Moscow. Soviet intelligence is thought to be behind the operation.

The group was said to have intimated to Gorbachev that it was dissatisfied with what it saw as a fall in the standing and reputation of the Soviets on the internal and external fronts.

Citing the source, INA said the change favors Iraq and is extremely likely to affect the present cooperation between the Soviets and the United States, especially if, as diplomatic circles predict, Primakov is named foreign minister. Another expected outcome is the return to a policy line closer to that pursued by former Soviet leader Andropov.

Paper Says Bush 'Clown' Fighting 'Windmills'

JN2412103290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0737 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Bush's attempts to dictate conditions and raise his tone with threats and promises are desperate, exposed, and hopeless.

The newspaper adds in its editorial today that these attempts have not and will not weaken Iraq's solidarity and will not sway it an inch from its position on a solution to the Gulf crisis. On the contrary, it will increase its determination and willpower to maintain its independent political decision so that Bush will learn that he looks more like a clown in international politics fighting with a wooden sword against windmills, when it comes to dealing with Iraq, and is killing peace by ignoring the conditions and bases for it so that the world will enter the dark tunnel of war.

The newspaper stressed that one of the first conditions and principles for peace is to respect the opinion of the opponents and not to dictate conditions and deal with them in an arrogant and racist manner, as Bush is doing in confronting Iraq under false pretexts such as humanity and democracy. This has become an offkey song all over the world arousing derision everywhere, especially when the United States adopts these methods to confront and strike at people, rob them of their natural resources, and impose political hegemony on them.

It said that it is rather stupid for Bush impudently to try to portray his invasion of the lands of Najd and Hejaz and the mobilization of his armies for aggression against Iraq as stemming from humanitarian concerns. Everyone, including Washington's agents and allies, knows that the United States, by creating the Gulf crisis, implemented its preplanned scheme to control Arab oil directly because Iraq posed a serious threat to the former situation of this control, which used to be accomplished through the agents among the shameless oil shaykhs without any need for military force.

It adds: If Bush claims principles of humanity and international legitimacy in dealing with the Gulf crisis—and that was the absolute U.S. claim—then the double standards on the problems in the region, the Palestine question in particular, exposes this false claim effortlessly; in fact, it stamps Bush and all previous U.S. administrations with racism and constant disregard for peoples and humans right to lead a free life on his land and enjoy its resources.

It pointed out that Bush, who claims to be a humanitarian, has used all the influence of the United States to perpetuate the blatant injustice against the Palestinian people. He went so far as to destroy and demolish the remaining, tiny amount of the Security Council's credibility for the sake of the monstrous Zionist entity. He imposed the law of the jungle over Western society whenever any regional or international crisis cropped up.

It said that if Bush wants us to believe that he represents humanity, let him end his policy of insulting other people's intelligence that he parrots on a daily basis and let him view the issues of the region and world with the same standards and criteria. But because of his ingrained racism and mad grudges, he does not give a hoot about the shedding of Palestinian blood and his dead feelings cannot be stirred by the continuing Zionist occupation of the land and people of Palestine for over four decades.

Concluding its article, the newspaper stressed that while Iraq exposes this false policy and aggressive U.S. logic, it does not depend on Bush's humanity. It knows its motives and opportunism. Therefore, the army and the people are ready to bring about true humanity, justice, and fairness in the region and the world even in an honorable duel that will truly be the crucial battle. This is Iraq's decision, and as we said, its decision is as firm as the edge of the sword.

'Abbas Says Forces Ready To 'Crush' Aggression

JN2312111590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1054 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas has stated that the Iraqi forces are ready to crush any aggression against the land of dignity and faith in great Iraq.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's statement on his forces' readiness to launch an offensive against Iraq as of the 15th of next month, the defense minister emphasized to INA that Cheney and his collaborators will see how the earth will be scorched under their feet not only in Iraq; it will also be scorched by the Saudi strugglers and mujahidin, headed by our Arab people who are afflicted by Fahd's treason in the eastern area of Saudi Arabia.

Concluding, Staff Lt. Gen. Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas said: The shouts of 'God is great' and 'Death to the infidels and aggressor traitors' will be chanted by all Muslims on earth and the oppressors will be defeated before the crushing blows of truth that will totally destroy their armies, God willing.

Baghdad Holds 'Voluntary' Blackout Exercise

JN2312203790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2003 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA)—A voluntary blackout exercise was carried out in the al-Rasafah section of Baghdad this evening within the framework of a plan to deal with emergencies.

The 10-minute exercise, supervised on the spot by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, who is also the supreme director of the Civil Defense, was designed to test the efficiency of electronic sirens and security plans, and the prompt response of public and official authorities.

An official Civil Defense source told INA that the general public and government authorities efficiently carried out their instructions upon hearing the sirens. Lights [word indistinct] installations, and departments where the nature of work did not require them were switched off; curtains were drawn; and traffic lights were turned off.

The source added that government offices and installations and popular and party organizations, for their part, carried out the plan in accordance with instructions.

AFP Reports Air Raid Siren Tested in Baghdad

NC2312202290 Paris AFP in English 1953 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 23 (AFP)—Iraqi civil defense authorities on Sunday set off an alarm siren in eastern Baghdad to test the population's readiness to take cover in case of foreign attack, correspondents reported.

The first test was immediately followed by a 10-minute power cut in the district, known as al-Rusayfah.

With the electricity shut down, the alarm siren resumed for a one full minute.

Traffic during the power cut came to a halt in al-Rusayfah.

The test was the first here since the start of the Gulf crisis August 2, which triggered the massive deployment of U.S. and other forces in the region opposed to the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait.

Authorities in Saudi Arabia, where more than 200,000 foreign forces are stationed, have also begun to test their warning sirens, notably in the eastern part of the kingdom near the border with Iraq and Kuwait.

On Friday, nearly a million Iraqis living in Baghdad, from a total population of four million, were temporarily evacuated as preparation for feared U.S. air raids.

U.S.-led multinational troops have been authorized by the United Nations to use force against Iraq after January 15 if Iraqi units have not withdrawn from Kuwait by then.

Baghdad Reportedly Preparing for Total Evacuation

Radio Monte Carlo Report

JN2212113090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Preparations are under way to evacuate all of Baghdad's residents to train them in Iraqi civil defense drills to face any U.S. attack. Speaking to AL-QADISIYAH newspaper, Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab added that 1.5 of the 4 million residents of the Iraqi capital were evacuated in yesterday's civil defense drills.

AFP Report

NC2212100690 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 22 (AFP)—The four million residents of the Iraqi capital will soon be evacuated as part of drills to prepare for a possible U.S.-led attack of the country, Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab said Saturday.

On Friday, Iraq's civil defense services evacuated 1.5 million people from Baghdad, who were taken to secure areas outside the capital in a "successful" operation, according to Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab, whose comments appeared in the armed forces newspaper AL-QADISIYAH.

At a site in the countryside 30 kilometres (nearly 19 miles) to the east of Baghdad, three huge tents were set up and thousands of residents held a gigantic picnic. Official Iraqi sources said the operation lasted 10 to 12 hours.

"Preparations are underway to organise the evacuation of all the inhabitants of Baghdad to confront the American aggression against the country," Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab told the paper.

He said that the civil defense authorities were considering the evacuation of several other Iraqi cities "to give all the citizens a chance to take part in these exercises and to be better prepared in case of an armed conflict."

Iraq has been psychologically preparing its population for possible U.S. or Israeli bacteriological, nuclear or chemical attacks, and the official press has carried instructions on what residents should do in case of such attack.

Baghdad saw similar exercises in 1987 and 1988 when Iraq and Iran slammed missiles into one another's cities as part of their eight-year war.

The United Nations Security Council has authorised the use of force to dislodge Iraq's army from Kuwait if it does not pull out from the emirate before midnight January 15.

Interior Minister on Goals of Evacuation Drill

JN2112200990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA)—The Interior Ministry carried out a field drill to evacuate citizens from the city of Saddam and environs this morning.

During the execution of the drill, which was supervised by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, chairman of the higher control center in charge of evacuation made up of representatives from the Ministries of Defense, Transport and Communications, Trade, Health, and Local Government; the Baghdad branch of the [Ba'th] Party organization; the Baghdad Municipality; and the internal security organs; cognizance was taken of the services rendered to citizens by the Civil Defense committees in the areas of transportation, food and medical services, and maintenance of peace and order, as well as the services rendered by the subcommittees in charge of evacuation.

In a meeting at a camp for evacuees with the correspondents of international television networks and INA, the interior minister declared that the drill sought to promote an awareness of the protection available, to demonstrate how accurately citizens could execute the drill, and also to verify the efficiency of Civil Defense organs and self-protection, recovery, and evacuation teams.

Housing Ministry Holds Civil Defense Drill

JN2212151490 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] The Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction and its affiliated departments and institutions yesterday began a civil defense drill including a move to alternate headquarters as provided for in the plan. The drill will go on for two days.

The ministry, as well as the headquarters of affiliated departments and institutions, will carry out their activities normally. In addition, Civil Defense teams at the ministry and affiliated departments and institutions have moved to the alternate headquarters to perform assigned duties and missions. The objective is to test responsiveness, coordination, and implementation of the missions assigned, and also to assess how accurately instructions issued by headquarters are carried out. The drill is part of various large-scale activities sponsored by the ministry to heighten the level of mobilization awareness for the accomplishment of the required Civil Defense missions.

Interior Ministry, Traffic Office Hold Drills

JN2212150190 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] The Interior Ministry has conducted a field drill, implementing its own evacuation plan in the realm of Civil Defense with the participation of all of the ministry's directorates and sections.

The drill included a move to alternate headquarters and testing of the efficiency of Civil Defense organs, self-protection, and speed of recovery and first aid operations, as well as means of rendering the necessary emergency services to citizens.

As for the General Traffic Directorate, it carried out a drill to test the efficiency and field performance level of traffic departments, as well as the swiftness of reaction to possible dangers resulting from an emergency situation.

The drill also included securing the traffic flow of Civil Defense and first aid vehicles, detours, blackout enforcement, and compliance with the signals of Civil Defense organs.

Citizens Instructed on Detecting Chemical Attack

JN2212144690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1248 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Dear citizen, greetings. You can detect the existence of chemical contamination by the following indicators:

Abnormal smoke or clouds of unknown cause and origin.

Fallen plant leaves and abnormal oil spots on the ground, trees, and buildings.

Appearance of unusual symptoms in people in the infected area such as breathing difficulty, irritation in the eyes, or an itch of the skin.

Dead insects or birds in the infected area.

Enemy use of chemical bombs, which can be distinguished by their faint sound, dense smoke, and [words indistinct], or spraying from planes.

Lastly, dear listener, receiving a warning signal that a chemical attack has taken place. Our good wishes to all for safety. [words indistinct].

Civil Defense, Industrial Safety Plan Given

JN2312075490 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Our newspaper AL-'IRAQ, in an effort to play a nationalist role, would like to explain some aspects of the work of the Civil Defense authorities and to enlighten people on various means of protection. Today, the paper wants to tackle issues related to our economic and development endeavors. We are referring to industrial safety, various work and production facilities, and means of protecting the lives of those working in them in the event of emergency. The paper would also like to affirm at the same time that full compliance by employees and workers with Civil Defense regulations will protect their lives and reduce losses in human lives and equipment.

Precautionary Measures

A. Secure on-site early warning fire alarms in all sections of the project and in all storerooms or warehouses.

B. Protect the machines and equipment that are necessary for operating the project.

C. Dig trenches and foxholes at the proper sites when there are no shelters at the project site.

D. Emphasize to workers and employees that they should use individual protection devices (masks, respirators, eye guards, shoes, etc.) as required by the nature of the project.

E. Secure electrical wirings and rewire in an organized manner. Set up insulating floors and earth electrical devices.

F. Construct lightning rods.

G. Establish a network of fire extinguishing outlets. The distance between outlets should be no less than 50 meters. The outlets' feed pump should be connected with a constant water supply source (a storage tank or reservoir). The network should be operated by either direct or alternating current.

H. Distribute hand fire extinguishers at all vital sections of the project. These extinguishers should suit the material handled at the project site.

I. For major and vital installations, a separate fire brigade should be assigned for each of these installations. The fire brigade should work around the clock, using all of its vehicles and equipment. The number of the vehicles assigned for firefighting should not be less than two. The fire extinguishing material used should suit the equipment needing protection. Two mobile fire pumps shall be used. As for the personnel manning the firefighting brigade, they should be as follows:

Shift supervisor	1
Firefighters	6
Firefighting vehicle drivers	3

J. An incinerator for burning waste and disposing of it should be built in an area that is relatively far away from the work site.

K. Fire extinguishers must be checked and maintained periodically.

L. Form fire brigades and self-protection teams from among the workers in the project, in addition to the major teams mentioned in the above paragraph, and supply them with the necessary equipment to execute their tasks.

M. Train the major fire brigades and the self-protection teams on how to use fire extinguishers in the project, how to report fires, and how to coordinate between the project on the one hand and neighboring projects' fire brigades and the major fire brigades in the city.

Medical Affairs

A. Form a medical center with a fixed number of personnel and equipment, and with work hours around the clock, especially for projects where there are more than 1,000 workers.

B. Allocate an ambulance to transport casualties, and supply it with the appropriate equipment.

C. Form first aid teams from the self-protection teams from among the workers in the project.

Storage

A. Follow the method of regular storage procedures in accordance with Civil Defense instructions.

B. A telephone and alarm should be installed in warehouses.

C. Supply the warehouses with alarms and firefighting equipment.

D. Warehouses should be provided with appropriate ventilation.

E. Train storekeepers on firefighting and prevention of fire.

F. Take into consideration the principle of dispersing and distributing the stored materials in more than one warehouse, and store each item in more than one store when possible.

Shelters

Find an appropriate place to be used as a shelter for workers in case of air raids (shelters or trenches). The locations of these trenches should be defined.

Blackout

The blackout measures should be taken in sections that continue to work under emergency circumstances. This can be achieved by painting over external lights, drawing window curtains tightly, sticking dark-colored paper to the windows, and other measures.

Training

A. Training the official in charge of industrial safety in Civil Defense courses.

B. Training the self-protection teams in performing their duties.

C. Provide training on how to deal with materials, particularly chemical materials.

Administration of Operations

A. Allocate a room to be used as headquarters for the administration of operations inside the project. It is better if the room is underground. There should be an official in charge of operations in this room on a 24-hour basis. He is in charge of moving and controlling teams under emergency circumstances.

B. Telecommunications and loudspeakers should be secured for control and orientation purposes between the operations headquarters and the other sections.

C. The headquarters should hold the following plans and information:

1. A general plan of the project's sections. Fire outlets and passages leading to these sections should be marked on these designs.

2. A list of emergency telephone numbers.

3. A list of the names of the self-protection teams.

4. A list of the names of the officials in charge in the project and ways to call them.

5. A working plan for the self-protection teams.

6. A plan for coordination and cooperation between the project's teams on the one hand and the neighboring projects' teams and the Civil Defense services teams on the other.

7. A special record of incidents, including the sequence of events, time of their occurrence, and the measures taken.

8. Any additional information deemed necessary by the official in charge of the project in accordance with the nature of the project's work.

Emergency Plan

Each project should set its own emergency plan. This plan should include:

A. The expected incidents in the project, possible acts of sabotage, and the means of tackling each of these incidents.

B. The possibility of the outbreak of more than one fire in the project and the means of tackling them with intrinsic capabilities.

C. Determining the means of alarm and ways to protect workers by means of shelters, trenches, and evacuation.

D. Ways to call officials in charge in the project and means of arriving at the project site.

E. A working plan for the self-protection teams in the project.

F. Determining the means of communication between the project and the major Civil Defense services.

G. Means of evacuating the wounded and transporting them to health centers.

H. Means of removing rubble and debris resulting from air raids, and of restarting the project.

Turkish Opposition Leader Arrives in Baghdad

TA2312101790 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0909 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad (A.A)—Main opposition Social Democratic Populist Party Leader Erdal Inonu said in Baghdad on Saturday that the Turkish nation is filled with the best of feelings for the Iraqi nation and will never do anything to disrupt the existing friendship.

Inonu arrived in Baghdad on Saturday afternoon from Amman, where he met Jordan's King Husayn.

Turkey's main opposition leader is on a three leg tour of the Middle Eastern countries: Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Inonu was welcomed at Saddam Airport by Muhammad Hamzah, revolutionary command council member and communications minister of Iraq, and Ahmet Okcun, Turkey's charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

At the airport Inonu said the aim of his tour was to ask for continuation of efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Kuwaiti question and expressed his conviction that Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn would contribute to the peaceful solution of the problem.

"Because friendships flourish better in peace and nations live more happily, I want the Iraqi people to be happy," Inonu said.

Hamzah responded to these words of Inonu saying they wanted Turkish-Iraqi relations to progress in the interest of both countries.

"You know very well that our head of state Saddam Husayn attaches great importance to development of

relations with Turkey. We find the attitude of the Turkish nation positive," he added.

Answering questions by journalists Inonu said that as a member of the opposition and a Turkish national he could say easily that the Turkish people want the existing crisis to be resolved by peaceful means.

"Turkey has no intention of aggression towards Iraq and I do not believe that Iraq considers aggression on Turkey," Inonu said.

Inonu indicated that the stories in the papers all concerned Turkey's defensive measures.

He said his party, SHP, launched an anti-war campaign in Turkey to show that SHP does not want war.

"To obtain full benefit from such a campaign is beyond us, but depends largely on Iraq's attitude," Inonu said.

In response to another question Inonu said that he was against the use of Incirlik NATO base in southern Turkey against Iraq.

Discusses Gulf, Relations

TA2312161090 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1544 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad (A.A)—Main opposition leader Erdal Inonu, currently on a Gulf tour, met with Iraq's President Saddam Husayn here today.

Saddam said that his country wanted peace and dialogue. Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) leader Inonu called for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Saddam said that Turkey's demand from NATO of an Allied Mobile Force (AMF) and its military buildup in the southeastern region have "stemmed from an American demand," Inonu said. The SHP leader said Saddam explained that that was why he sent troops to Iraq's border with Turkey.

"Our relations with Turkey's President Turgut Ozal used to be good. But the president has changed his stance lately. Why does Ozal want to draw back our 70-year-old good neighbourly relations now," Saddam asked, according to Inonu.

Calling the UN Security Council "the American Security Council," Saddam said the UN body has been acting under American pressure, Inonu said.

Saddam claimed Iraq would be the winner of a war in the Gulf and said his country had no intention of attacking Turkey, said Inonu.

"Why should we attack Turkey? Do we have any historical reason? But Turkey is building up troops to its border with Iraq. In response, we have deployed troops at the border area, Saddam said, adding, "Why is Turkey sending troops to its border? Is it going to attack us? We don't have any intentions over Turkish soil."

Saying his country wanted a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, Saddam accused the U.S. with being impatient and claimed the American Administration tried to impose a date for the proposed meeting in Baghdad between Secretary of State James Baker and him.

SHP leader Inonu said that he wanted a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and that the Turkish nation had no negative feelings towards Iraq.

Inonu predicted that Turkish-Iraqi relations would improve after the Gulf crisis is over and said that "Turkey would not participate in a war in the region."

Calling the freeing of Western hostages in Iraq a "positive action," Inonu said Iraq should now take a further step toward the peaceful solution of the crisis.

Inonu called on Saddam to start to withdraw his troops from Kuwait in order to push the U.S. to follow suit, but Saddam brushed this aside calling it an "American proposal," according to the SHP leader.

Inonu also told Saddam that Turkish troops near the Iraqi border were sent there as part of defensive measures.

SHP leader Inonu told reporters that the Iraqi president was insistent on his views and that he believed Iraq could not be defeated since Saddam thought his country had the backing of 200 million Muslims.

Saudi Arabia Visit Canceled

TA2312200290 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1645 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad (AA)—The planned visit to Saudi Arabia by Erdal Inonu, leader of the Social Democratic Populist Party, has been canceled. The visit was to have been part of Inonu's Middle East tour to hold talks for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

It is reported that Inonu's visit to Saudi Arabia was canceled because no time could be set for his meeting with King Fahd due to the king's scheduled meetings.

After his meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Inonu attended a dinner given by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Inonu will return to Turkey this evening.

Saddam Meets Fatah Delegation, Stresses 'Linkage'

JN2212183390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1708 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has declared that the Arab nation has never been a minor element in humanity but has always been a major one, and that when it has the sound will and the firm determination to play its pan-Arab and national role, it often takes a more comprehensive humanitarian direction.

Receiving a delegation of the Fatah Movement Foreign Relations Bureau led by Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee and official in charge of the bureau, his excellency said that a duel will naturally be based on linkage between the regional and the national, not periodically but objectively, and in terms of principles. We wanted linkage to occur at this time to make the sacrifices that will please the nation and show the nation's mettle, enabling the nation to emerge faithful and respectful of and respected by the people.

Leader President Saddam Husayn added: We cannot separate one issue from another. Man's dignity cannot be built in one area and neglected in others; it should be built and prepared in a balanced way.

His excellency said: The Palestinians are the first of the Arab nation to support the Iraqis and adopt the principle of linkage. So, if we do not adopt the same serious linkage, we would be forsaking our commitment. Therefore, linkage between pan-Arab and regional issues is a duty and a necessity.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the Regional Command Foreign Relations Bureau.

Delegates Confer With 'Aziz

JN2212210090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received the Fatah Movement Foreign Relations Bureau delegation led by Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and official in charge of the Bureau.

They reviewed the latest developments in the Arab position. They stressed the need to pool all pan-Arab resources to face the U.S.- Atlantic invasion and its aggressive schemes against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that linking all regional issues, headed by the Palestine question, constitutes the heart of the Iraqi position as embodied by President Saddam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative.

Hani al-Hasan stressed the Palestinian people's solidarity with Iraq in the trench of struggle against any U.S.-Zionist aggression against Iraq. He also hailed President Saddam Husayn's initiative to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the issues in our region, particularly the Palestine question, and stressed the need to escalate the political and media campaigns, especially in Europe, to abort the scheme of aggression and war.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Desk and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Jasim Notes Readiness for 'Crucial Battle'

JN2412135090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1112 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said that the Iraqis' readiness and ability to defend their territory and sovereignty are high under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. During his meeting with 'Abd-al-Bari al-Tahir, doyen of the Yemeni journalists, and his delegation the culture and information minister said: The valiant Iraqis do not fear America and its allies at all because justice is on their side and because they are defending all the values of the Arab nation and its history.

Jasim added that the coming days will all be days of pride and loftiness for the sons of the Arab nation and as the days of battle come closer, we become more optimistic about the future of our nation to reinforce its dignity and pride.

The culture and information minister stressed that the coming battle is against the forces of evil and aggression, because infidelity has mobilized all its strength on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and occupied the Islamic holy places in Mecca and al-Madinah.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim explained that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative can guarantee the settlement of all the region's problems, foremost being the Palestinian cause and the tribulation of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

He said that the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's tribulation will be the most cherished objective until holy Jerusalem is liberated. Then, the crucial battle will acquire its historic meaning in terms of this battle and its important results.

Jasim praised the stand of the sons of Yemen in support of their brothers, the Iraqi people who are confronting the U.S., Atlantic, and Zionist conspiracies and their unjust resolutions imposing economic siege.

The Culture and information minister reviewed the background of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies against Iraq. These conspiracies were hatched against Iraq because it represents the blazing torch of the Arab nation and embodies the Arab nation's aspiration to enhance its status among the civilized nations.

'Abd al-Bari Al-Tahir, the doyen of the Yemeni journalists association, praised Iraq's steadfastness under President Saddam Husayn and its ability to confront the U.S., Atlantic, and Zionist troop concentrations that are occupying the land of Najd and Hejaz.

He said that the Arab nation and its sons see Iraq's steadfastness as a ray of hope and that they are proud of the courage of its sons. He added that Iraq's coming battle with the forces of evil and aggression will be the

battle for the Arab nation, which faces a difficult test in seeking to express its will and existence as a civilized nation.

The meeting was attended by members of the Iraqi journalists association, and the INA director general. The Yemeni delegation includes representatives from SABA' NEWS AGENCY and several newspapers in fraternal Yemen.

Jasim Tells Jordanian Team State Ready for War

JN2412132690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Regional Command, has said that the U.S. and Atlantic concentrations in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] will not intimidate us because our people's morale is high and because they are ready for confrontation. During a meeting with a Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA] delegation under Mashhur Hadithah al-Jazi, comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that our depth in this confrontation is all of Iraq and its history and culture, the Arab people, and a billion Muslims throughout the world. He added that the Americans are planning and trying to extinguish the ember of the Arab soul and Arab enthusiasm accompanied with action. He said this was because they fear the enthusiasm that the Arabs had at the beginning of the Arab awakening.

The Regional Command member explained that the coming confrontation will be one between the United States, representing the gathering of infidels, and the gathering of the faithful, noting that this is a historic opportunity for the Arabs to restore their usurped rights. He said: When a door of hope is opened, the defenders of this hope will be many, noting that this a healthy and good sign.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim reviewed the series of U.S.-Zionist plots in cooperation with the buried Croesus family against Iraq to undermine its cultural achievements. He praised the genuine pan- Arab role of the fraternal Jordanian Arab people. He said leader President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people and leadership have been following up the Jordanian street since the beginning of the so-called Gulf crisis, both through its popular activities and mass media.

Mashhur Hadithah al-Jazi expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation to be visiting Iraq, which is leading the great battle of challenge and confrontation to abort the Zionist- U.S. design against Iraq and the Arab nation. He said we are happy to stand with our brothers who have told the world that steadfast and defiant Iraq is capable of confrontation and steadfastness in the face of the plot against it.

Industrial Safety Committee, Subcommittees Formed

JN2212151890 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] The Interior Ministry has decided to set up a Higher Committee for Industrial Safety under the chairmanship of the Interior Ministry undersecretary. The committee members shall be representatives holding the rank of director general of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Planning, the Civil Defense Directorate, the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Association of the Chambers of Commerce, the Association of Iraqi Inudstries, and the National Insurance Company. This Higher Committee will be tasked with drawing up general principles for industrial safety.

It has also been decided to form a committee for industrial safety in Baghdad to be headed by the deputy mayor of Baghdad and and to set up similar committees in the governorates to be chaired by the governors.

Likewise, it has been decided to form an industrial safety committee at every major production project. The project manager shall be responsible for securing the requirements of industrial safety, forming self-protection teams, preparing a contingency plan providing for means of tackling emergencies, maintaining production in times of peace, war, and disasters, and drawing up a plan for coordination with major nearby plants.

Instructions on Proper Use of Medicine Cabinet

JN2412115190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1052 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear brother and sister citizens, greetings. The home medicine cabinet is considered a necessity in evey household for storing and making available whenever needed those medicines that are used on the spot to cure certain cases that happen over and over again, and to perform first aid for simple accidents that occur in the home.

When the home medicine cabinet, which resembles a very small closet, is available it must be closed properly and kept out of reach of children in particular. The expiration date of the medicines should be checked every now and then to make sure they are still valid for use.

The home pharmacy contains the following substances:

1. Medicated cotton wool, bandages, gauze, sterilized compress pads, plasters of various sizes, and a pair of scissors.

2. Painkillers, the most important of which are paracetol [as heard], aspirin, and anti-pyretics.

3. Antacids.

4. Tablets to cure abdominal pains and laxatives.

5. Ointments for muscle contractions.

6. Alcohol and disinfectants.

7. Some types of medicines to cure backaches.

We wish you safety and good health.

Correction to Saddam on Peace, Talks With U.S.

TA2012195090

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Saddam on prospects for Peace, U.S. Talks," published in the 20 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 14-17: Page 16, column two, paragraph four, make read: [Text] [Saddam] When Iraq did... (correcting name from "Birand" per monitor recheck).

Reportage on Saratoga Ferry Accident, Reaction

19 Reported Dead, 47 Injured

TA2212113990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Nineteen U.S. sailors were killed, 47 injured, and 36 rescued unhurt in the ferry disaster in Haifa Harbor. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that there are most likely no other missing people. There were 1,924 sailors on leave in Haifa last night out of the 4,500 sailors on board the USS Saratoga. The exact reason for the disaster is still unclear. The launch which transferred the U.S. sailors from shore was very close to the Saratoga when it sank. It seems that dozens of sailors were concentrated on the ferry's stern, ready to board the aircraft carrier.

The head of the Shipping and Ports Administration in the Transportation Ministry has appointed an inquiry committee headed by a senior ship captain. Me'ir Shoshani, ITIM's correspondent in Haifa, reports that the committee has already begun its work and will present its findings within several days. It will coordinate its activities with the committee set up by the 6th Fleet and with Israel Police.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] helped the 6th Fleet in its rescue efforts. Five Air Force helicopters and fighter and transport planes helped to find the missing sailors while helicopters from the Saratoga airlifted the casualties to the hospitals.

The Navy acted as liaison between the Israeli and U.S. helicopters. The Air Force operated 300 flood lights, which lit up Haifa Harbor for many hours.

Arens Confers With U.S. Commander

TA2212124090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Navy frogmen are at present searching the sunken ferry on the sea bed to investigate the reasons for the accident. After learning about the disaster, the Navy used submarines, Dabur boats, and frogmen to help in the rescue efforts. Mr. Arens believes the Saratoga tragedy will not harm U.S. activities in the Persian Gulf. Our correspondents Natan Silberman and Karmela Menashe report that Minister Arens this morning boarded the aircraft carrier and conferred with Admiral Gee, the commander of the 6th Fleet task force which was in Haifa for Christmas. The admiral praised the assistance of the Navy and Air Force. Earlier, the defense minister visited the casualties recovering in Haifa hospitals.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 22 December in a report on the ferry disaster has Minister Arens saying that "at this stage, we do not know all the details, therefore it is difficult to say exactly what caused the accident, but it is clear to us that it was an accident."]

Chief of Staff Dan Shomron also praised the rescue efforts throughout the night by the Navy and Air Force. He sent his condolences to the bereaved relatives and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

Inquiry Begins; Terrorism Ruled Out

TA2212144190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Three investigating teams are currently dealing with last night's ferry disaster in which 19 U.S. soldiers were killed and 47 injured. This morning a meeting was held to coordinate the work of the investigating bodies; a team from the 6th Fleet, a team from the Shipping and Ports Administration of the Transportation Ministry, and a team from the Israel Police participated.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has learned that the ferry, El Tuvya, was in good condition and that its operator, Yosi Levi, said that no unusual incident preceded the sinking. It seems that most of the U.S. Marines who had returned from shore leave in Haifa moved to the stern as the boat was about to be hooked to a raft connected to the carrier Saratoga. It is possible that a wave of the stormy sea lifted the bow. As a result, the stern filled with water, and the ferry turned over and sank very rapidly.

Rear Admiral Mikha Ram, the Navy commander, has said that only after the ferry is raised from the bottom of the sea, a depth of some 24 meters, will it be possible to determine the reason for the disaster.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports from our studio in Haifa:

[Passage omitted] Rear Admiral Mikha Ram, who accompanied Defense Minister Moshe Arens on his visit to the survivors of the accident this morning, told us that the possibility of the incident being an act of terrorism is being ruled out at present. Only tomorrow, however, after the ferry is raised from the sea bed, will it be possible to determine with certainty just what was the reason for the accident.

[Begin recording] [Ram] The Navy is not designed for rescue missions; it is designed for rapid operations. We coordinate and determine what forces to use for the event in question. This method was proven correct in this case, when within 20 minutes 10 Navy vessels had arrived at the area of the incident and picked up the survivors.

[Zilberman] Have you reached any conclusions from this incident?

[Ram] Not yet. No debriefing has been held yet. There is, therefore, nothing to learn from yet.

[Zilberman] Do you have any immediate recommendations for the Americans?

[Ram] No, we have no recommendations yet. According to the reports of the frogmen, the vessel does not seem damaged, and it is still unclear what caused the sinking.

[Zilberman] Do you know of any possible negligence by someone that could have caused this accident?

[Ram] No. Until the vessel is pulled out and examined, and until we know exactly what happened, it will not be possible to speak of negligence. We can actually say quite the opposite: The ferry is authorized to carry 130 passengers, and because the sea was high, with waves of up to 60 to 80 centimeters, the captain decided to take only 100 sailors. The reason it sank is unclear. It went down very fast—in 15 to 20 seconds, according to the survivors. There were life vests on the ferry and on another one nearby, but none of the survivors had worn them. There were enough means that could have be used but were not.

[Zilberman] Are you saying that none of the passengers wore a life vest?

[Ram] To the best of my knowledge, you are not required to wear them. Rather, enough life vests must be on board the ship. I do not know the exact figures, but I believe that it is not compulsory to wear a life vest. I have never encountered such an incident. I have never seen a vessel sink so fast. [passage omitted]

Officials Send Condolences

TA2212182190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] The president of the state, the prime minister, and the foreign minister today sent telegrams of condolences to the United States over the accident in which U.S. Marines were killed in Haifa Bay. President Herzog expressed the sympathy of the people in Israel with the American people's grief. Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi wrote that Israel's civilian and military authorities made a supreme effort to save the lives of those involved in the accident.

Arens Says Preemptive Iraqi Attack Unlikely

TA2412094490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] I do not consider it very likely that the Iraqis will decide to deal Israel a preemptive missile attack, but one can never know, because Saddam Husayn is an unpredictable man. These remarks were made today by Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Saddam Husayn, added Arens, has a very limited capability to reach Israel with his missiles. We are ready for every possibility, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is on the alert in anticipation of every danger.

The defense minister said he is not worried by the Jordanian Army exercises. In the event of a confrontation, the Jordanian Army will not pose a serious challenge to the IDF, although I hope very much we will not have to face such a confrontation, said Arens in an address to high school students in Qiryat Sharet in Holon.

Dismisses Saddam's Statements

TA2412114290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens this morning ruled out the idea of an Israeli preemptive strike against Iraq. He was addressing high school students in Holon. Le'a Zinder reports:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] Speaking to his audience of high school students in Holon, and again in a brief interview afterwards, Defense Minister Arens seemed unperturbed by Saddam Husayn's latest threats to bomb Tel Aviv.

[Arens] It's not the first time, and it's not the last time. We're used to these kind of bombastic statements coming out of Saddam Husayn, and it doesn't make much of an impression on us.

[Zinder] You say you don't take his threats seriously?

[Arens] We don't discount his threats, because we've seen him do wild and irrational things in the past, but it doesn't make an impression on us when he makes his statements every second day. We've heard this many times before. There is nothing new there.

[Zinder] So, are you discounting the need for Israel to make any kind of preemptive strike as well?

[Arens] We are not in the business of making preemptive strikes. [passage omitted]

[Zinder] Arens told the students, in response to a question, that the intifadah violence in the territories has gained the Palestinian Arabs absolutely nothing. He added that there is no solution to the Israel-Arab conflict in the short term.

Arens also said he opposes the direct election of the prime minister, the idea adopted last night by the Labor Party. [end recording]

Levi Reaffirms Wish for Jordanian Stability

TA2412113990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that he hopes Jordan realizes full well that Israel has no designs on it. On the contrary, Israel is reiterating its wish to see stability prevail in Jordan and its desire not to witness a situation in which Jordan serves as a bridge for an attack on Israel. The foreign minister made these remarks in a talk with our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Minister Levi added that it is in both Jordan's and Israel's interest not to allow any adventurer to exploit Jordanian territory or airspace in a way that would

endanger Israel. If Jordan indeed prevents its territory from being used as a passageway, it will find that Israel cares about the integrity of the Hashemite Kingdom.

Minister Levi added that these observations have been conveyed to Amman through both open and confidential venues.

Shamir Says Danger of Gulf War 'More Tangible'

TA2412102290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the danger of war in the Gulf is now more tangible than ever. At the same time, he urged Israelis not to worry, because the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is all set and prepared for every eventuality.

In a talk with our correspondent Hayim Hecht during a tour of the north, the prime minister said that there is nothing new in Saddam Husayn's threat to attack Israel even if it does not participate in an attack against Iraq. It is another attempt by the Iraqi ruler to drag Israel into a confrontation in order to make the war look like an Arab struggle against the State of Israel. We are used to these threats, and they neither disturb nor frighten us. At the same time, we treat them seriously.

The prime minister reiterated his warning that if Saddam carries out his threat, he will be hurt in the most serious way possible.

Army Kills 'Terrorist' on Jordanian Border

TA2212144990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] This morning a terrorist was killed by gunfire from an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the Jordan Rift Valley as he was trying to cut through the border fence north of the settlement of Argaman. Our forces suffered no casualties. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the patrol found the fence cut, opened fire, and killed the terrorist, who was in possession of a firebomb and two copies of the Koran.

Four Detained for Planned 'Terrorist Actions'

TA2312120090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Israel has detained four Palestinians who had been trained in Libya for terrorist actions against Israel. The four were picked up from a boat off the Lebanese coast. The Israeli Army spokesman says the boat aroused the suspicions of an Israeli naval patrol. The boat, which was en route from Cyprus to Lebanon, was stopped by the Navy and, after an initial investigation, six people on board were transferred to Israel. A subsequent investigation here revealed that four of the six were Palestinian terrorists. The two others have been released. No further details were made available at this time.

Levi on Shevardnadze Resignation, Relations, Aliyah

TA2112170090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that Eduard Shevardnadze will be remembered as the Soviet foreign minister under whose leadership Soviet-Israeli relations have returned to the right direction. Minister Levi told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Shevardnadze had a friendly and an open attitude. Levi also said he is concerned by the serious warning about anticipated tyranny in the USSR that Shevardnadze gave in his resignation speech. At the same time, Foreign Minister Levi expressed his certainty that under the presidency of Mikhail Gorbachev, relations between Israel and the Soviet Union will continue to develop and the aliyah will go on undisturbed.

Gulf Crisis Delays IDF High Command Reshuffle

TA2412110690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Dec 90 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Due to the crisis in the Gulf, the tension in the area, and the fear of additional hostile activities, the General Staff has decided to delay the planned reshuffle of appointments to certain key positions in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for the time being. This was reported by military sources.

It was reported that in view of this decision, the new commanders of the Northern and Central Commands, the Ground Forces Command, and the Intelligence Branch will assume duty at a later date. It has also been decided not to appoint a new research assistant to the Intelligence Branch chief. The sources reported that the decision was made in coordination with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The newly appointed chief of the General Staff will assume duty as scheduled. According to the sources, the decision to delay the reshuffle was made as a result of the belief that it would not be wise to rattle the IDF's upper echelons at this time. The men in question are senior Intelligence Branch officers who are well versed in the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Labor Votes for Direct Elections of Prime Minister

TA2312190390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Labor Party Central Committee voted a short time ago in favor of direct elections for prime minister. The vote was held in an excited atmosphere and amid claims that it was irregular. Mikha Harish, party secretary general, said the vote commits all 38 Alignment Knesset members [MK's]. MK 'Imanu'el Sussman, one of the leaders of those opposed to direct elections for prime minister, said he would appeal against the vote and demand a new one. [passage omitted]

Karami Discusses Obstacles To Forming Government

NC2212191090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister-Designate 'Umar Karami met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening. He expressed astonishment at the report that the new government will include 30 ministers, adding: This meeting was my first with his excellency the president to discuss names and portfolios as well as the number of ministers. I do not know where the number 30 came from. It might be 30, 40, or 20. Actually, all this is mere speculation.

Karami continued: We are still discussing this matter. I have been consulting with members of the legislature and have briefed his excellency on these consultations. We considered certain views and exchanged information, and are continuing to hold consultations; we still believe that this government must be formed as soon as possible.

Regarding obstacles, the prime minister-designate said: Go back over the history of forming governments. Whenever a government resigned and efforts began to form a new one, obstacles, conditions, and attempts at ridicule emerged. In Lebanon, we are accustomed to this. There is no problem which cannot be solved.

Asked if the government's motto of national reconciliation still holds, Karami answered: Of course. This will be our political action. We regard this government as the government that will complete the al-Ta'if process. To complete the process, the militias must be disbanded in a period not exceeding six months. This government's task will be to disband the militias and collect the weapons. If this is not done, we will be deceiving ourselves and the people.

On the date when the government will be announced, Karami said: After this visit to his excellency the president, we will return to our serious discussions which are continuing day and night.

He said that he cannot now specify a date for the announcement.

Al-Husayni Supports Karami

NC2212142190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has told Prime Minister-Designate 'Umar Karami that he is prepared to support his efforts and endeavors in a bid to realize the wishes and aspirations of all the Lebanese. Speaker al-Husayni stressed that all efforts must be utilized in the service of national will and the salvation of Lebanon.

Speaker al-Husayni's remarks were made during his 90-minute meeting with the prime minister-designate this morning.

Sukkar Refuses To Join New Government

NC2212073790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Lebanese Forces Command Council member Nadir Sukkar last night. Sukkar informed al- Hirawi that the Lebanese forces refuse to take part in the proposed government.

A Lebanese Forces responsible source has stressed that the Lebanese Forces refuse to take part in any unbalanced government, explaining that this stand is final.

In a statement published in AL-DIYAR today, the source said that our concept of a balanced government is not based on the number of ministers who will represent the Lebanese Forces. We propose a balanced government on all levels, whether on the level of representation, areas, or numbers. The source noted that the Lebanese Forces believe there is an attempt to impose a government agreed upon in advance. Atlhough the final formula is not known yet, it seems that it will not reflect the Lebanese people's aspirations and ambitions for a national detente government which must implement the al-Ta'if accord. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Party Opposes Expanded Government

NC2212072590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has stated that the Phalangist Party does not support the formation of an expanded government. If such a government is formed, we cannot accept it as a fait accompli. He said all trends need to be represented in the new government provided it is not expanded in such a way that the trends will multiply.

Phalangist Party Leader Assassinated 23 Dec

NC2412065090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Elie Daww, head of the Phalangist Party's Kafr Shima branch, was assassinated in his home last night.

According to details, two gunmen stormed Daww's home at 2100 last night and shot him and his pregnant wife. The gunmen used a 7-mm machine gun equipped with a silencer. Daww died instantly from seven wounds, while his wife was seriously wounded and taken to Sacre Coeur Hospital.

Investigations were launched into the incident amid strict security measures, and the Lebanese Army sent out patrols and erected roadblocks in the area. Voice of Lebanon has learned that two people—Dany Tarraf and George Sa'adah—are suspects.

A military source in the Lebanese Army later announced that in the wake of the attack against a party official in Kafr Shima, Army units stationed in the area surrounded the scene of the crime. Other units are engaged

in wide-scale operations to arrest the perpetrators. Some people were arrested after security information was received and were referred to the investigation bureau.

The Army Command warned everyone against harming the citizens and announced that it will not be lenient in deterring aggressors, regardless of their party affiliation. The Army Command pledged that it will keep the public informed about all available information resulting from investigations by competent authorities.

Israeli Helicopter Reportedly Hit by Missile

NC2012183290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] In the South, resistance men downed an Israeli Cobra helicopter during clashes with the occupation forces near Shab'a in the occupied border strip at dawn today. According to security sources in Hasbayya, the two crewmen who were in the helicopter both sustained grave injuries that necessitated their evacuation to the occupied territories.

According to the same sources, the Israeli occupation forces have cut off all roads to Shab'a. An Israeli force of 50 troops backed by tanks and helicopters searched the nearby river valleys and hills. AFP says that the downed helicopter was hit by a surface-to-air missile before it crashed into a hill.

Fatah Spokesman on Crash

JN2112193390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] A military spokesman for the Fatah General Command of al-'Asifah Forces has stated the following:

As part of the missions of struggle of our heroic revolutionaries against the positions of the Zionist enemy and the Lahd agent forces in the Arab Lebanese south, which are carried out in accordance with the military orders issued, our fighters this morning returned to their bases after managing to break the cordon the enemy imposed on them in the area of Shab'a the day before yesterday in which 50 soldiers of Zionist forces, agent militias, fighter planes, and four helicopters participated. A two-hour clash took place between our groups and the enemy forces.

Our fighters said they saw a Zionist helicopter crash after hitting one of the hills overlooking the town of Shab'a. All those who were in the helicopter were either killed or injured.

May Palestine live free and Arab. Glory and eternity for our righteous heroes. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The General Command of the al-'Asifah Forces.

Israeli Navy Intercepts Boat, Detains Passengers

NC2212160390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] The Israeli Navy has intercepted a Lebanese boat and detained its eight passengers. According to a security source, the Israeli Navy intercepted the boat yesterday evening off Sidon and took the two Lebanese and six Palestinians aboard to Israel.

[Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World at 1530 GMT on 22 December reports: "Lebanese security sources in Sidon said today that an Israeli warship intercepted a Lebanese ferry as it was heading for Cyprus last night. The sources added that the Israeli soldiers, who intercepted the ferry off the coast of Sidon, detained two Lebanese citizens and six Palestinians and transported them to Israel."]

Amal Groups Attack Israelis, Lahd Militia 21 Dec

NC2212175490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Amal Movement has announced that two of its units carried out separate operations against a patrol of the Israeli occupation forces on the road to the al-Dabsh position opposite the township of Kafr Rumman, and against a forward ambush set up by the agent Lahd militia opposite the al-Haddathah position yesterday. Amal reported that an M-113 vehicle was damaged and its occupants killed or wounded. In addition, the fortifications of the southeastern front of the al-Haddathah position were damaged.

Meanwhile, the enemy forces shelled the vicinity of the Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah and the outskirts of Kafr Rumman and Haddathah, as well as the wooded areas of 'Ayta al-Jabal and Bayt Yahun. The enemy forces also shelled al-Ghanduriyah. [passage omitted]

Amal, Hizballah Agree to Army Deployment

NC2212062390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] A meeting was held in the Syrian observers headquarters yesterday. It was attended by Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon], Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, and Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli.

In a joint statement after the meeting, Hizballah and the Amal Movement announced that they have agreed to facilitate the Lebanese Army's deployment in all areas in the south and western al-Biqa' and provide necessary assistance to them.

Minister Birri had earlier announced that the recent Council of Ministers' decision provides for the Lebanese Army's deployment in all areas in the south and that this does not conflict with the right to resist the occupation.

Al-Shar' on UN Resolution, Possible Conference

JN2112135990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has described the Security Council resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Israeli practices against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territory as an important step on the right path. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the timing of the international conference, indicating its convening at the appropriate time and why should it convene after solving the Gulf crisis, al-Shar' said: After the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and resolving the Gulf crisis, the Arab position will be united, as we hope, and the Arab side will be in a better and stronger position to participate in this conference to end the Israeli occupation of the Arab territory and guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

UN Resolution 'Important Step' Toward Peace

JN2212121990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has described the Security Council Resolution No. 681 on the protection of Palestinians and the presidential statement on holding an international peace conference on the Middle East as an important step on the path toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In a commentary today, the paper reviews the principles on which the resolution was based, namely, that the acquisition of land by war is unacceptable, guaranteeing the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation, the secretary general must continue efforts to dispatch a fact-finding commission to investigate the real situation in the Arab occupied territories, and condemning Israel's decision to deport Palestinians, which conflicts with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The paper also reviews the Security Council presidential statement, which, for the first time insists on reaching a just and comprehensive peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338 and holding an international peace conference at the appropriate time and within a suitable structure.

The paper refers to the escalating, hysterical Israeli campaign against the Security Council resolution. TISHRIN says: This campaign aims at continuing to reject peace opportunities, and continuing Israel's policy of terrorism and aggression.

TISHRIN concludes: It is time to put an end to the strategy of aggression, expansion, and usurpation, and time for Israel to comply with international legitimacy and UN resolutions on the Palestine question.

Prime Minister Addresses People's Assembly

JN2412092990 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1900 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] The People's Assembly convened this evening under the chairmanship of Speaker Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, and in the presence of the prime minister, Mr. Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and the deputy premiers for services and economy.

The session was devoted to the Government's statement of policy, which was delivered by the prime minister, Mr. al-Zu'bi, who reviewed the distinguished relationship between the People's Assembly and the Government, signalling out for tribute the kind of effective cooperation which existed between the two bodies.

The prime minister stressed the importance of the steps and measures taken by the Government in the light of President al-Asad's directives. He also talked about the economic situation in the country and the Government's continued efforts to tackle the economic problems.

He then moved on to talk about the Government's measures to encourage exports and rationalize imports with a view to striking a well-defined balance aimed at realizing self-reliance.

Al-Asad, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Discuss Gulf

JN2112171490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] At 1030 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Dr. Khalid al-Mahayini.

The talks focused on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the ensuing crisis, and Arab and international rejection of the occupation.

Minister Discusses Talks, Departs

JN2112203290 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah has talked about how proud and happy he was in meeting President Hafiz al-Asad. At a news conference this afternoon with reporters, journalists, and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and television networks, he said that every time he met with President Hafiz al-Asad he benefited because an utter frankness predominated at these meetings, which gave an added dimension to every issue that many would have missed. We felt, he said, that the president encouraged all the projects and issues we proposed during our visit to Damascus.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah praised the Syrian Arab stance on the Gulf crisis under leader President Hafiz al-Asad, and said it stemmed from Syrian Arab nobility and clarity of vision.

On Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh al-Sabah said it had fragmented the Arab homeland and forced us all to divert our attention, to say the least, from our first concern as Arabs, which is the Palestine question. Instead of concentrating our efforts on solving this issue, we are today, as Arabs, concentrating on putting an end to the occupation of one Arab country by another.

He added that talk about a linkage between the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Palestine question is merely an Iraqi pretext not to comply with the resolutions of the Arab League, the United Nations, and the Islamic Conference Organization, all of which call for unconditonal and full withdrawal from Kuwait.

On the results of his visit and talks with officials in Syria, he said: They were very serious and successful. They dealt with the development of economic cooperation with the objective of realizing Arab economic stability. He added that during this visit to Syria, many development and economic projects were discussed and the doors were opened to a number of new projects in accordance with a studied and serious plan. Many industrial, agricultural, and trade projects which will bolster the economic growth of Syria were agreed upon and signed.

Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah left Damascus this evening.

To see him off at Damascus International Airport were Finance Minister Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi, ranking officials of the Finance and Economy and Foreign Trade Ministries, and the staff of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Damascus.

Cypriot Ministers Arrive for Talks 22 Dec

JN2312145790 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1900 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] A Cypriot delegation comprising Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou, Finance Minister Yeoryios Sirimis, and Trade and Industry Minister Takis Nemitsas arrived in Damascus today for talks with government officials on ways and means to further promote Syrian-Cypriot relations.

The ministerial delegation was greeted at the airport by Foreign Minister Mr. Faruq al-Shar', Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Minister of Finance Mr. Khalid al-Mahayini, and the Cypriot ambassador to Damascus.

In a statement to the press, the Cypriot foreign minister spoke highly of the distinguished relations of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and Cyprus.

Talks Begin 23 Dec

JN2312155790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today met in Damascus with Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou. The conversation centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict and international conditions, particularly developments in the Gulf crisis.

The joint Syrian-Cypriot committee held the first round of talks this morning at the Foreign Ministry. Ministers al-Shar' and Iakovou cochaired the meeting.

The talks centered on the means to improve and bolster the horizons of cooperation and friendship and build up bilateral ties in political, economic, commercial, and other fields. The two sides expressed interest in improving these ties in pursuance of the instructions given by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Yeoryios Vasiliou.

Bangladesh

AFP Reports Student Activists Killed

BK2412094690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Dec 24 (AFP)—Suspected rival activists Monday shot dead a former student leader just hours after the death of another activist sparked fresh protests in Bangladesh's second largest city, local sources said.

They said Shoeb Ahmed Khan was shot dead by activists allegedly belonging to the rightwing Islami-Chatra-Shibir (ICS) who opened fire on a demonstration organised by their rivals—the All Party Students Unity (APSU).

Another 15 people were hurt in the incident, the sources said.

Students claimed Mr. Ahmed said "Shibir attacked us" before he died.

Earlier, hospital sources said Faruquzzaman, vice president of the leftwing Bangladesh Chattra Moitry (BCM) group, which belongs to the APSU, died of injuries suffered in clashes Saturday at Chittagong University.

News of his death sparked the APSU demonstration Monday.

Clashes Saturday and Sunday between the rival groups and police left some 200 injured, hospital sources said.

The trouble began when ICS activisits attacked an APSU demonstration against their campaign to force Vice Chancellor Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin to resign.

The ICS accuse Mr. Sirajuddin of being a close associate of ousted Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who was forced to step down earlier this month amid opposition protests against his rule.

Meanwhile Monday, police arrested 103 people, including ICS President and Secretary Hamidu Rahman Azad and H.M. Hamid Hossain, and served them with 90-day detention orders.

Hospital sources said they were treating 41 people, eight of them critically ill, for injuries sustained in the clashes.

Witnesses said there was a heavy police presence as tension mounted in the port city.

In Dhaka, acting Bangladesh President Shahabuddin Ahmed held talks Monday with ICS leaders and underscored the need for "patience and tolerance" by all in the greater national interest.

"Violence in the educational arena would have adverse effects on national life causing hindrance to holding peaceful, free and fair" parliamentary elections set for February 27, Mr. Ahmed was quoted as saying by the official BSS NEWS AGENCY.

The acting president urged the ICS leaders to keep the peace on university campuses in cooperation with other student organisations, which were at the forefront of the protests that toppled Mr. Ershad.

Executive Orders on Publications Act Repealed

BK2112133490 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The Government of Bangladesh has repealed all the executive orders issued since 1976 regarding the Printing Press and Publications, Declaration and Registration Act of 1973. This was decided at a meeting of the council of advisers held at Bangabhaban [President House] on Thursday with acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair.

New Information Secretary Appointed

BK2212170490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. A.Z.M. Nasiruddin, secretary of land, has been made the new information secretary. Mr. Sayeed Ahmed, information secretary, has been transferred to the ministry of [words indistinct]

Industry Secretary of Ershad Government Arrested

BK2112161490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] A former industry secretary, Mr. Mosharaf Hossain, and his wife Zeenat Mosharraf have been arrested and sent to Dhaka Central Jail for 120 days of detention. UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH] says police arrested them from a house in Golkibari area of Mymensingh town early hours of today under the Special Powers Act. Mr. Mosharraf, a former chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, was sacked as industry secretary after the downfall of Ershad government early this month.

India

Shekhar on Punjab, Kashmir, Other Issues

BK2212094890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister today announced that the chief justice of the Supreme Court will be approached very soon on the question of referring the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed temple-mosque] issue to a judicial panel. Speaking at a Meet the Press program in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he has already consulted some legal experts in this regard and is also in touch with leaders of both communities. He said leaders of the two communities are not averse to the formula mooted by the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, which seeks to refer the issue to the Supreme Court to ascertain whether a temple originally existed at the disputed site. During the more-than-one-hour-long

program, the prime minister replied to questions on major issues, including communal disturbances, the problems in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, economy, price increase, Bofors, and India-Pakistan relations.

On the Punjab issue, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he is willing to talk to anyone provided the discussions are within the framework of the Constitution. He said the government can even consider any amendment to the constitution to meet the aspirations of the people in the state; but never allow the abrogation of the Constitution. Mr. Chandra Shekhar made it clear that the government has no intention to use coercive measures. But if positive results do not come, it will not hesitate from taking stern steps. He has said certain administrative measures have already been initiated in the state.

The prime minister ruled out holding of immediate elections in Jammu and Kashmir and said the law and order situation has not improved much to warrant these. He said the president's rule in the state will be extended. Mr. Chandra Shekhar disclosed that there is some response in Kashmir to his call to the people to come forward for talks to find a solution to the problems.

On the national scene, the prime minister said there is no immediate proposals for midterm elections. He also ruled out any expansion of his cabinet before the end of the coming parliament session.

The prime minister said state governments have taken adequate steps to contain communal disturbances. He denied that he had given a warning to any state government, but said if there is any failure on their part, the center is constitutionally bound to take corrective steps. He said certain vested interests tend to keep the communal issues alive for ulterior motives and appealed to the people not to be misled and fall prey to their communal frenzy. He said if we fight among ourselves, we will not be able to put up a fight against poverty and hunger which is the primary task before the nation today.

On Bofors, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it is never the intention of his government to conceal facts or shield anybody. He said it is an issue of corruption and investigating agencies are doing their tasks.

Pointing out that the country's economic situation is quite difficult, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said no outside nation can bail us out and the situation can only be eased with the people's cooperation and tightening of the belt by the affluent sections. He ruled out any immediate revision in the prices of petroleum products and said the threat of war in the Gulf still looms large and the prices of crude in the international market have not stabilized as yet.

Referring to the general price rise, the prime minister said steps are being taken to strengthen the public distribution system and remove scarcities of the commodities wherever these are felt. Regarding the Eighth Plan, the prime minister said there is no question of plan holiday. But some changes are necessary in the draft plan document formulated by the previous government. He said the Planning Commission is seized of the matter and very soon the final document will be ready.

On Pakistan, Gulf Crisis

BK2212103990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The prime minister said there is no need for the scare of a Pakistani nuclear bomb as Islamabad can never undertake a misadventure of using it. He said he has the impression that Pakistan wishes to improve relations with India and the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has spoken to him twice during the last few days on the hot line.

[Passage omitted] About the situation in the Gulf, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the Iraqi president, Mr. Saddam Husayn, should have responded more favorably to the U.S. proposal to discuss the issues across the table.

Replying to a question on the developments in the Soviet Union and the decision of the foreign minister, Mr. Shevardnadze, to resign, the prime minister said these cause anxiety, but hoped that President Gorbachev will be able to handle the situation in a more profitable manner.

The prime minister also disclosed that some negotiations are going on between India and China on improvement of bilateral relations.

Iran

Paper Denies Shevardnadze Move Exposes Discrepancy

LD2312085690 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—The resignation of the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is hardly a sign of his discrepancy with the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev over foreign policy, commented an Iranian daily Sunday.

An editorial in the morning daily 'ABRAR' considered Thursday's resignation of Shevardnadze as a recurrence to ex-leader Leonid Brezhnev era and a warning to the West. Shevardnadze's resignation, though reportedly shocked the West, but was not unexpected, the daily believed. Following the rapid deterioration of the economic situation in the Soviet Union, a radical change was expected for 'perestroyka' to get rid of the obstructions created by the old communists on the way to introduction of a market economy. However, it added, if the resignation is a sensational political maneuver by Gorbachev and his aides against the so-called reactionary forces, then the West will watch the game with great interest. The Gorbachev team are seeking two major goals: first, to force Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov, heterogeneous with the Soviet changes, to resign and secondly to notify the West, and Europe in

particular, of a possible recurrence to the past, of perestroyka's practical failure and of its consequences.

ABRAR referring to Moscow's present unstable Middle East policy said that Gorbachev needs to receive further aid from the West in order to subside the current crisis. However, it concluded, there are few to assume that Shevardnadze's resignation is a sign of his differences with Gorbachev over foreign policy.

Formation of Regional 'Security Structure' Urged

LD2312120690 Tehran IRNA in English 1116 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Sunday suggested that instead of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC], a "security structure" exclusive of foreign powers be formed which should strive to safeguard security and might of the oil-rich region and counter foreign powers' presence and domination.

The daily in its editorial continued that such an organization should consider Iran as the biggest regional power. Referring to the ongoing (P)GCC summit session in doha which is to examine formation of a "new regional security system", it said that the council is in fact the product of an American plan. The objective of the U.S. was to establish a security belt round the southern borders of the Islamic Revolution and thus interfere in the affairs of the region. The council during its short life has been a cover for the U.S. military operations in the region and contrary to what has been publicized, the council has never protected security and interests of the member countries. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is a proof to the (P)GCC weakness and ineffectiveness, it said adding that this is because the council was basically formed to counter the "Islamic Revolution."

Other members of the council face a destiny similar to that of Kuwait, the editorial said expressing doubt whether discussions on a new security order in the region by such a discredited council could be of any significance. The paper, however, urged the Islamic Republic to clearly announce its stand and let it be known to all that the time for treacherous and criminal acts of Arab reactionaries is over and that they will be severely punished if they try once again to play with the destiny of the region. The editorial suggested formation of a security structure that would embody the regional countries and exclude the U.S. and all other foreign powers. A body that would endeavour to preserve the security and strength of the oil-rich region in the Islamic world by merely relying on "local forces" and a body that would consider the Islamic Iran as the biggest regional power. Under such circumstances, it concluded, the bitter past and present events in the region will not be repeated and no one would dare think of committing acts of aggression and blackmail.

Commentary Views Turkish Role in Gulf Crisis

NC2312083690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. Turkey has requested that NATO deploy a multinational force on Turkish territory near the Iraqi border. Turkey, as the only NATO member with a common border with Iraq, has called for stationing what are called mobile forces on Turkish territory. This 5,000-strong force will be equipped with support fighter aircraft. All this comes after Turkey had previously stated that it does not need military support.

Turkey's role in the current Persian Gulf is of special significance to the West, especially to America. America has actually rediscovered Turkey because of its proximity to the sensitive oil-rich Persian Gulf area, which is strategically important, as well as because of its significance to the Middle East's economy.

After the reduction in East-West tension, Turkey's role as one of the Soviet Union's neighbors and an important part in the American security belt around the East Bloc lost a considerable part of its significance. But the Persian Gulf crisis showed that Turkey can play a special role in the Middle East in the future.

Actually, America's investment in Turkey—forgetting about Turkey's $7 billion debt—in extending gratis assistance and supplying Turkey with modern installations which it very urgently needs, speaks of the new approach of the West and especially of America to Turkey.

Turkey, which wants to be considered a European rather than an Asian country, has been trying for many years to open European and American markets to its goods. The current situation in the Persian Gulf can help Turkey to achieve this goal.

Meanwhile, Turkey's stands on the Persian Gulf have undergone major changes in view of the said factors. Turkey's stands have varied from support for war against Iraq as a solution to insistence on a peaceful solution. Apparently these policies have changed depending on what conditions prevailed and when. Now that the balance is tipping toward more pressure on Iraq, Turkey is making a request for NATO forces to be deployed to defend it from a possible Iraqi attack.

Observers believe that in assessing this request one should not count on the deterrent and defensive strength that these forces can have in the case of an Iraqi attack, but that this request should instead be viewed more within the context of the psychological effect it can have on Iraq.

Since it is not long until the UN deadline, America and its allies are trying to put more pressure on Iraq in order to compel it to reply positively to America's requests.

Apparently Turkey has played its role well until now. But there is room for great doubts on whether this country will receive the reward it wants once the crisis is over.

New Commander for Guard Corps Navy Named

LD2312184990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i issued an edict today appointing Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani as commander of the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] while retaining him in his current post of commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the edict is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani: In order to establish unified command and exercise united determination [eradeh-e vahed], as well as to fully utilize in a coordinated way the Armed Forces and the IRGC, which complement each others' duties in carrying out their missions and have gained valuable and pride-inspiring experiences during the period of the holy defense—while stressing once again maintenance of the independence of these two forces—in accordance with the request made by the commander of the IRGC, I appoint your excellency, who has an illustrious record of service in the organizations of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps, to the post of commander of the Navy of the IRGC while maintaining your status and identity with the Armed Forces. It is necessary for you to exercise command over the navy of the IRGC, as follows:

1. With regard to operational and organizational affairs, dismissals and appointments, promotions, missions, transfers and relocations, training and discipline, you should act within the limits of the powers of commander; beyond that, you must obtain authorization through the general staff command of the Armed Forces.

2. The responsibility for logistical, financial, and personnel support for the Navy of the IRGC lies with the general staff headquarters [setad-e kol] of the IRGC and should be exercised with the request and coordination of the naval headquarters of the IRGC. [sentence as heard]

3. All transfers and relocation of resources, including personnel, equipment, facilities, and buildings of these two bodies are subject to obtaining special authorization through the general staff command of the Armed Forces.

4. All organizational changes or increases or reductions in units and sections should be carried out after they have been studied and proposed, by obtaining authorization through the general staff command of the armed forces.

I deem it necessary to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the valuable efforts of his excellency Mr. Ala'i in establishing and rendering operational the Navy of the IRGC and for his tireless and continous efforts during his term of office as commander of that force. And I reiterate the need to benefit from his experiences and services in the IRGC. I ask Almighty God to grant your excellency success in carrying out, all the better, your important responsibilities in the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 23 December 1990

Reportage, Commentary on Victory-1 Maneuvers

Maneuvers Reviewed

LD2112140190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 21 Dec 90

["News Analysis by Central News Unit Research Group"]

[Text] The extensive Victory-1 maneuvers by the three branches of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps have been successfully completed having achieved all of its predetermined aims. These extensive maneuvers were held in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and parts of the Indian Ocean.

One of the outstanding features of these maneuvers was the complete coordination in the activities of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces. In today's world, such coordination is necessary for the successful conduct of military actions. On this matter, the esteemed Leader of the Revolution while reviewing the units participating in the Victory-1 maneuvers, pointed to this fact and stressed the need for joint command and organization. The military are duty bound to seriously follow this advice so that we can witness the strengthening of unity among our Armed Forces.

On the other hand, considering the sensitive conditions prevailing in the region, complete readiness to confront any unexpected turn of events is vitally important. It is no secret to anyone that the maintenance of security in the region is a necessity for the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has the longest coastline in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, the Armed Forces, while maintaining complete unity, must be aware of any development in the sensitive Persian Gulf region.

Finally, we note—and all military experts agree about this—that Iran, with its powerful armed forces, is the only country that can guarantee the security of this sensitive region. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no desire for the territory of any of its neighbors. The military officials of the Islamic Republic on countless occassions have stressed that they will not accept any change in the geography of the region.

Maneuvers Enter New Phase

LD2112151790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Forces participating in the Victory-1 joint maneuvers displayed their combat and defensive capabilities in the waters of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the northern basin of the Indian Ocean as they continued Phase V of these exercises using missile sites and deploying sea warfare tactics and the element of surprise. We draw your attention to the report of our correspondent from the operational zone of the Victory-1 joint maneuvers.

[Correspondent] Continuing Phase V of the Victory-1 joint maneuvers—the tactical phase—the forces defending the Persian Gulf and the strategically important Hormuz Strait employed missile sites and deployed sea warfare tactics and the element of surprise to wipe out the remainder of the forces of a simulated enemy before they could enter the Persian Gulf region.

According to a statement released by the tactical operations headquarters of the Victory-1 joint maneuvers, during this phase the air and sea units of the Navy and Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with units of the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Corps [IRGC], extended their reconnaissance operations fully to the northern basin of the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman. After identifying the remaining forces of the simulated enemy, the defenders of the Persian Gulf and the strategically important Hormuz Strait, being on full alert and employing the sea warfare tactics and the element of surprise, engaged in a heavy sea and air encounter. In these operations they fired land-to-sea missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, and shore batteries. Simultaneously, assault craft embarked on a swift offensive operation and blocked attempts by the remaining forces of the simulated enemy to infiltrate the Persian Gulf region and the Sea of Oman. They then fully destroyed the enemy units.

It must be said that the successful performance of the tactical phase as well as previous phases of Victory-1 joint maneuvers has enabled the three forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Navy of the IRGC, which have been participating in those exercises, to display once again their combat and defensive capabilities in the Persian Gulf region.

In view of the wide publicity given to the reports on these maneuvers, and also according to the views of the sources well aware of political and military issues, it seems that the coordination, cohesion, speed, and firepower shown in these exercises by the operational forces will be among points which could underline the high scientific and expertise levels of the combat and defensive forces of the Islamc Republic of Iran.

I must add that in the sixth phase of the Victory-1 joint exercises, which will be their last phase, the operational forces will embark on analysis and stocktaking of their performance. The results of the analysis will be announced in subsequent newscasts.

Commander Discusses Results

LD2212222890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The grand Victory-1 exercise, which is being held with the participation of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf, carries a great deal of importance under the current sensitive and grave conditions.

The commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, in an interview aboard the command ship of the Victory-1 exercise, said: The Navy is fully prepared to confront any unexpected situation in the Persian Gulf.

Commodore Shamkhani announced: Under the current conditions when the arrogant powers, especially the aggressionist America, have brought their armies to the Persian Gulf, it is imperative that we achieve an increase in military might and defensive preparedness.

In relation to the Victory-1 exercise and its various stages, Commodore Shamkhani said: In these exercises for the first time we are utilizing a kind of anti-sea helicopter. [sentence as heard] The naval commander stressed: The Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces will be equipped with advanced submarine equipment. He said that the necessary studies regarding this field have already been carried out. What is necessary here is to equip the Navy as best and as powerfully as possible to enable it to confront likely threats brought about by serious developments in the region. With regard to its grave and sensitive duty in preserving Islamic Iran and the principles and values of the Islamic revolution, the Navy of Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces must be equipped with the most advanced technological resources. This is necessary if it is to face up to military muscle flexing by foreigners. As such it must also raise the combat strength of its experienced and faithful forces. [passage omitted]

Maneuvers 'Complete Success'

LD2212231190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] With the implementation of the sixth state of the Victory-1 joint maneuvers, those exercises concluded with complete success. Our correspondent's report on that is another item in today's news reports, to which we listen together:

[Unidentified correspondent] The huge Victory-1 joint maneuvers were concluded today with complete success by the three forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] Army and the Navy of the Islamic Republic Guards Corps [IRGC] in the azure waters of the Persian Gulf,

the Sea of Oman, the strait of Hormuz, and the northern waters of the Indian Ocean.

On the basis of the statement released by the tactical operations headquarters of the Victory-1 maneuvers, during the sixth and the last stage of the maneuvers the sea and air units belonging to the three forces of the IRI's Army and the Navy of the IRGC assessed and analyzed their performance after they returned from the operational region.

During the Victory-1 joint maneuvers, the performing units comprising of destroyers, missile-launching frigates, logistic battleships and personnel carriers, the air fleet, fighter aircrafts of the Air Force, some elements from the ground forces of the Army, special units of the Navy of the IRGC, as well as the surface minesweeper helicopter squadrons and the Navy Marines brigade, performed extensive maneuvers lasting for ten days with complete success. They engaged in extensive amphibious, surface, and underwater exercises; joint exercises of heavy ships and fast boats passing through waterways already cleared of mines; and exercises using electronic and air reconaisance warfare, landing forces on hypothetical enemy's coasts and using complicated advanced electronic systems.

Commodore Izadi, the commander of the joint headquarters of the Army and the IRGC, said at the end of the joint Victory-1 maneuvers, in an exclusive interview with the reporter of the Central News unit based at the Persian Gulf center, in announcing the successful conclusion of the Victory-1 joint maneuver: The participating personnel, whether from the three forces of the Army or the Navy of the IRGC, displayed with their extensive efforts their high capability in using advanced systems and weapons, and their maintenance and utilization when necessary.

The commander of the joint headquarters of the Army and the IRGC then referred to the remarkable feature of the Victory-1 joint maneuver: the existence of unity, coordination, and cooperation between the operating personnel of the Army and the IRGC in implementing orders of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the achieving the preplanned goals, and added: The mighty Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, relying on the forces of belief and devotion in its personnel, is ready to confront any conspiracy, anywhere, which would pose a danger to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I should add that the Victory-1 joint maneuvers were performed this year at a time when the IRI's Navy witnessed the launch of the reconstructed Sabalan destroyer by the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, His Eminence Aytollah Khamene'i, joining it to the country's Navy, and also with the extensive presence of the IRI's Air Force using a number of MiG-29 aircraft. Meanwhile, the Navy of the IRGC was able for the first time to display the scientific expertise of its personnel in manufacturing Asad seacraft, which are equipped with guided radar and firing systems.

Maneuvers' 'Message' Lauded

LD2312152890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The situation which has evolved as the result of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has reached a very sensitive and dangerous point, a point that can lead to a confrontation which can be destructive and very damaging to the region and the whole world. In that situation, considering the fact that our country is situated in Iraq's neighborhood and any political or military action or reaction will undoubtedly affect the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, naturally it seems inevitable that officials, military forces, and the people should maintain their preparedness and vigilance.

The officials should continue to monitor the process of the developments cautiously to thwart any attempt to alter the region's political geography and its borders. Also, in continuing their political activities, they should protect the indisputable and substantial role of the Iranian Government in resolving the crisis. The people, on the other hand, should follow the trend of the crisis with awareness and be prepared to defend the country's interests in unexpected situations, such as the victorious holy defense. Finally, the Armed Forces of the revolution, whose duty it is to protect and safeguard the borders of the country—of course, they so far have performed that serious duty with competence—should now monitor and control any activity in the region with extra vigilance.

With such an insight, it is easier to see the immense significance of the unique and vast exercises of the Navy, of the Army, and of the Guards during the huge victory maneuvers. Those maneuvers, apart from playing a vital role in maintaining and elevating the defense readiness of our dear ones, also convey the message to the confronting powers in the region that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to confront any kind of activity that would endanger the interests of the Iranian nation and the Armed Forces of our country, using their absolute might and experience, and are capable of turning that potential determination to action.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers

LD2112133790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Simultaneous with the mourning period for the anniversary of the martyrdom of the great lady of the world of Islam, Seddiqeh-e Kobra, Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, may God's benedictions be upon her and her scion, our Muslim compatriots today performed the politico-religious rites of the Friday prayers throughout the country. The citizens of Tehran today

performed this eternal Mohammadan rite at Tehran University and in its adjacent streets under the imamate of Ayatollah Emami-Kashani.

The interim Friday prayers leader of Tehran, in the course of the Friday prayers sermons elaborated on the arduous life and the dignified character of the immaculate Zahra, may God's benedictions be upon her, and related parts of the blessed life of her holiness, who was a role model for all women throughout history.

In his second Friday prayers sermon, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani remarked on the convocation of the week of unity between the seminary and the university and paid tribute to martyr Ayatollah Mohammad Mofatteh as one of the founders of that unity, praising the valuable services of that wise theologian.

Regarding the plots hatched by arrogance aimed at creating discord and dissension in the Islamic societies, he said: The creation of discord between the seminary and the university is one of the chief objectives of the arrogance aimed at causing dissension amongst the Islamic societies. Since the seminary and the university carry fundamental and significant roles in society, arrogance has endeavored and endeavors to increase its domination over our Islamic society by creating contention and dissension between the seminarians and the students, just as we witnessed in the course of the Taqut period [reference to the Pahlavi regime], when they had split these two significant groups in our society to the extent that very often the seminaries lacked the necessary social ideas and the universities lacked commitment, faith, piety, religious knowledge and humanity. But the imam of the ummah, may God's blessing be upon him, brought the seminarian and the student together, thus achieving unity between the seminary and the university. It is this very unity between the seminary and the university which has prevented the deviation of the Islamic revolution from the right path, even for a moment. This unity is extremely profound and valuable.

Then Ayatollah Emami-Kashani remarked on the unpleasant impacts which the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq would have on the regional countries, pointing out the way the global arrogance is exploiting the wealth and the resources of the Muslims of the region toward the extensive dispatch of the alien military forces to the Persian Gulf. He said the United States is using the Muslims and the abundant wealth of the Islamic countries of the region as its instruments. The Muslims should remain vigilant and the Islamic countries must force Iraq to leave Kuwait, so that the United States and its allies become despondent, and hence are compelled to withdraw their troops from the region.

Remarking on the martyrdom of Mr. Sadeq Ganji, the official in charge of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cultural institute in Lahore, Pakistan, who attained the rank of martyrdom by the agents of the global arrogance, he called on the Pakistani government to investigate this crime comprehensively and decisively.

In conclusion of the second sermon, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani referred to the forthcoming anniversary of the birth of His Holiness Jesus, may God's Peace be upon him, and called on all Christians through out the world to bring out the churches from their formal atmosphere through complete adherence to the teachings of His Holiness Jesus, may God's peace be upon him, and to uproot the ideas emanated from tyranny and oppression by the virtue of the teachings of the prophets of God, so that the societies can continue their lives in freedom.

Mohtashemi Interviewed on Aiding Palestinians

NC2112173490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Dec 90 p 7

["Exclusive interview" with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Tehran Majles deputy, by KAYHAN correspondent in Tehran on 6 December]

[Text] KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL: To what extent do you think holding seminars like the Islamic Conference on Palestine (Dec. 4-6) held in Tehran could help the Palestinian uprising?

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: Every seminar, conference, small or large session held in every part of the world could help any movement or uprising, either armed or unarmed, if they act as a focal center for the purpose of that uprising or movement. This means people gather in one place and exchange various views and began to exploit the power of their opinions in order to consolidate efforts to support a movement. If the spirit of this particular seminar moves within this framework, naturally the Islamic Conference on Palestine is a useful one.

But in relation to the Palestinian issue, other factors are clearly involved too. Political and public relations support has been and is being given to the Palestinian cause for the past 40 years. The Palestinian issue is not confined to a political or publicity framework and working solely on those lines will not have a 100 percent positive result. If alongside these seminars and conferences special programs and policies are adopted for practical actions, then these gatherings results will be enhanced and increased.

Today (Thursday Dec. 6) I became really glad when I heard what Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, the Majles (the Islamic Consultative Assembly) Speaker said here at the first Islamic Conference on Palestine. He offered a series of practical proposals. He said that the conference should not end with just a simple concluding rsolution. The conference should take the first practical step and naturally other countries will do the same. Other governments in the Islamic world cannot resist the political pressures and public opinion of their people regarding this issue.

All efforts should be mobilized and coordinated so the Palestinians could be helped, especially with regard to

training, establishing armies, economic assistance and even education. For instance, there are many Palestinian students who can come and continue their education in Iranian universities. These are all practical and useful proposals for helping Palestinians and enhancing their uprising.

In addition Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi suggested that the intifadah must be expanded from within the occupied territories to the outside world. As a result, the intifadah will become an international issue. This is a good idea. If it is implemented the Zionists will never feel secure in any part of the world. Symbolically, this is very important. Assume in every country where Israel has an embassy, Muslims there, even if they do not carry out any armed attack against the embassy, just throw pebbles at the embassy. This act will boost the morale of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and demoralize the Zionists. The news of such an attack will receive international coverage. Also, other practical activities against the Zionists' interests throughout the world must be carried out.

Thus, based on what I said, if these conferences and gatherings result in some specific practical effects, in addition to their political or publicity impact, I think then they are very useful. But in their own right, political and publicity initiatives are also useful.

Here we have invited various people with different thoughts to exchange views in relation to the Palestinian question and the Middle East. In addition, learning more about the enemies of Palestinians and Muslims could be another fruitful and positive achievement of the seminar.

I am glad that the Islamic Conference on Palestine is being held by the Islamic Republic of Iran after 11 years. Of course there have been some other sessions, but not in this form or with this content. This is a potential first step which can pave the way for future practical moves.

Q: Do you have specific proposal for supporting the intifadah?

A: Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi's proposals were very good.

Q: In addition to the Majles Speaker's proposals what do you suggest?

A: I think we should internationalize the intifadah. We must start to support the Palestinians' uprising, economically. We must ratify a law by which we regularly finance the intifadah and also ask other countries to do so. We must provide military training for Palestinians.

Q: Do you have any idea why PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat did not attend the conference?

A: The seminar has more of a popular dimension. In the other words, the seminar did not attempt to invite representative personalities of this or that organization, rather the conference invited personalities as individuals who are influential in the world of Islam and on the Palestinian issue. Even those persons who are members of various parties, groups, or are leaders of either Palestinian or non-Palestinian organizations, were invited not in their leadership-capacity of a group, party or according to any organizational hierarchy, but rather as individuals irrespective of their political relations and activities.

'Arafat is not a person who favors the liberation of Palestine. Perhaps people like 'Arafat would rather see the present situation continue in Palestine so they can succeed in making money out of the current circumstances. If Palestine is liberated, then it will not be clear what sort of government or political leaders will be elected by the Palestinians. But if the present situation continues, they will be able to head their organizations and parties, and benefit both politically and economically.

Q: What is your opinion with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Palestinian uprising, as well as the Lebanese Islamic movements?

A: It is very weak. I do not have a positive assessment. Perhaps after the ratification of the new law passed by the Majles, or if the executive organizations take serious action, the present weak trend may change.

There have been initiatives in Lebanon and Afghanistan with respect to the Islamic revolutions there. But nothing serious has been done for Palestine. I hope this conference functions as a blessed commencement for future fundamental accomplishments.

Q: Taking into consideration the fact that Ilyas al-Hirawi government, with the support of the Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon have started to disarm all Christian and Muslim militiamen, what is your forecast about the future of Lebanese Muslim revolutionary groups, particularly the Hizballah?

A: If the present situation continues, that is if the Maronite government of Lebanon enhances its foothold in Lebanon and expands its jurisdiction outside Greater Beirut to other regions in Lebanon, the condition of the Islamic groups will worsen daily. That means we will not witness the improvement of the Islamic revolutionary groups' condition; rather, their status will regress.

If the Maronite government is overthrown, then there is a chance for Muslims. There are two choices: Either the Muslim majority controls the government, or the Maronites slaughter Muslims and then fully expand their control over Lebanese affairs under the present condition of neither war, nor peace, between the Islamic and non-Islamic groups. But there is the possibiliy of a change, because the next move to be taken by the Maronite government will either force the Muslims again to retreat, or in order to hold on to their positions, resist and fight.

Q: With most of the Palestinian groups being non-Islamic, why is it that Iranian and other personalities are offering an Islamic methodology for the liberation of Palestine

A: Sometimes one wants to help Palestinians through the Palestinian groups. It is possible that thos various groups and organizations do not believe in an Islamic creed and movement. But the Palestinian people are Muslims and they will follow any movement which changes the present condition in Palestine and helps them to gain their freedom.

For the past 40 years, the Palestinians experienced all sorts of non-Islamic groups, parties and organizations, affiliated with either East or West. Now you see the Palestinian people starting their revolutionary activities from the mosques. Their slogans are Islamic. There are also Islamic movements in Palestine, like the Islamic Jihad Organization and Hamas. These groups have more influence among the Palestinian masses' unanimous uprising.

I do not want to intimate that by just chanting Islamic slogans, the current status will be changed in the occupied teritories, but what I want to say is that if the Palestinians feel and realize that an honest regime, like the Islamic Republic government, will provide them with means and facilities to convert its words into acts, then naturally the Palestinian people will employ an Islamic approach and Iran's paradigm in their struggle for the liberation of their homeland. The Palestinians will not follow us just for our slogans, because they have seen how all the Arab countries have used pro-Palestinian slogans to advance their own political purposes. In reality though, they did nothing practical for the Palestinian cause.

Now if the Palestinians see that an Islamic country like Iran has started to help them practically, and Iran has converted its slogans into action, then the Palestinian masses will follow the Islamic Republic of Iran's model and regardless of what the non-Islamic groups dictate to them, they will follow Iran.

Q: Since you used to be Iran's ambassador to Syria and lived there for some years you are familiar with Damascus's diplomacy. What is your assessment with regard to Syria's sending troops to Saudi Arabia?

A: Syria will never engage herself in a war in the Persian Gulf. Syria is looking for business. By sending forces to Saudi Arabia, Damascus wants to also achieve a political goal. The total Syrian troop strength in Saudi Arabia is estimated at 10,000 soldiers, which is no match for the 1 million-man Iraqi Army.

Q: But the U.S. is launching a big propaganda campaign in this respect. Washington is taking more propaganda benefit out of the presence of Syrian troops alongside U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, than the actual use of those troops would be in a war against Iraq.

A: Syria is not a model for us. We should not approve or accept whatever Syria says or does.

Q: What do you think will happen to the Palestinian groups stationed in Syria, following the improvement of Damascus-Washington ties?

A: There are groups of Palestinian refugees living in camps in Syria, similar to Palestinians who used to reside in Kuwait, or who are even now living in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf Arab states. The major Palestinian organizations are now in Tunisia, not in Syria. Even if they live in Syria, nothing will change.

If any country (Syria) is improving ties with Washington, this does not mean the status of the Palestinians should change drastically. Nasir's Egypt is now Mubarak's Egypt and what changes have occurred in the destiny of the Palestinians? Could the change of policy in Egypt from the former to the present prevent the intifadah? Tunisia is a pro-American country and most of the Palestinian groups are in Tunisia. What difference has come about in the Palestinian uprising? As I said, if the Palestinians want to follow eastern or western models, or depend on governments like during the past 40 years, nothing will change for them in the next 40 years and more.

The Palestinian people have no hope in the existing Arab governments or organizations. The reality is that they are tired of slogans. Although they follow Islam in their struggle, this does not mean that if we act within the framework of catchwords, the Palestinians will accept and follow us. No, the Palestinian masses are looking for action.

Karrubi Addresses Majles Session on Envoy's Death

LD2312125190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] In this morning's open Majles session, with Karrubi presiding, the Majles speaker spoke about the assassination of martyr Sadiq Ganji, the head of Iran's cultural center in Lahore, Pakistan, and asked that country's government to investigate and expose the nature of that conspiracy. The Majles speaker said: The nature of the crime reveals a movement against the unity of the Islamic community and for the creation of division between the Iranian and Pakistani nations. However, let the enemies of Islam know, the Iranian and Pakistani nations' mutual familiarity and affection prevent the outbreak of disputes. Karrubi ended his remarks by extending his condolences to the defenseless martyrdom of Sadiq Ganji, the head of Iran's cultural center in Lahore, to his family and to the Iranian nation.

In the session, Mohammad Ashrafi-'Esfghani, Mohammad Rashidiyan, Seyyed (?Rezi) Hoseyni-Madani, Musavi Tabrizi, Marziyeh Habobchi-Dabbah were selected for the task of supervising the election of the country's Islamic Councils.

The double urgency of the legal draft bill for the amendment of the credit allocated for three development projects included in the amendment to the country's budget bill for this year was also approved by the deputies in the session.

Khamene'i Meets Lebanese Faction Leader

LD2312180990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, received the leader of Lebanon's Unification Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha-'ban, this morning. In the course of this meeting, the leader of Lebanon's Unification Movement presented a report to the leader of the Islamic revolution on the situation of Lebanon and that country's Muslims. While extending congratulations on the success of the Islamic conference on Palestine in reaching its objectives, he called for closer cooperation among Islamic sects.

*Editorial on Need for Timely Reactions

91AS0340C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in English 21 Nov 90 pp 32, 30

[Editorial: "Need for Timely Reactions"]

[Text] While the United States is continuing to keep the Iranian frozen assets and has extended the economic sanctions against Iran, the Turkish President Turgut Ozal's statement in Tokyo demanded a very strong reaction by ranking Iranian officials but unfortunately it was preferred to keep silent.

Ozal in his meeting with the U.S. vice-president said that Iran has expressed willingness to normalize relations with Washington and that he understands from his meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that Iran's attitude towards the United States may change.

The extension of economic sanctions by the United States just one day after Ozal's statement following his Tehran visit is indicative of Washington's disappointment with Tehran. But why Ozal presents a different approach to the mass media from what he has secretly presented to Americans and also the point that this has not prompted any reaction by the Iranian policymakers is something ponderable. On 31 Oct 1989, President Bush in a letter to the U.S. Congress announced the extension of economic sanctions against Iran but the delay this year reveals the United States' hope over the outcome of Ozal's visit to Tehran.

Certainly, if the outcome of Ozal's Tehran visit was aimed at coordination between Iran and the United States for regional ends and normalization of ties with the United States, the latter would end the sanctions against Iran. Because even the majority of American analysts who have closely followed the developments from the very beginning of the eruption of the Persian Gulf crisis hold that Iran plays a sensitive role in any U.S. initiative to get Iraq out of Kuwait and in case of any U.S. military intervention, Iran, with a long coastal line in the Persian Gulf, is capable of disturbing the U.S. expansionist designs. Therefore this is certain that under such circumstances any balance in Iran's stance would be welcomed.

Many analysts contend that Ozal's personal understanding that Iran would like to have normal ties with the United States is more aimed at frustrating Washington's open hostilities against the Iranian people. The Americans during this period have maintained their hostile attitudes in order to cover up their ill repute during the Iraqi aggression against Iran and avoided touching on the Iraqi imposed war as much as possible.

The White House does not mind the reflection of continued active U.S. antagonism with Iran because Western propaganda apparatus are trying to place Iraq in a situation whereby to bring the future regional developments under control. A firm response to such statements by American middlemen would not only not harm Iran's position but would further strengthen its image in the region. While Washington's European dealers like Britain face severe crises owing to pursuing the U.S. policies, no hesitation should be made in encountering the regional dealers.

It is to be noted that according to the latest news, the foreign minister has denied if Iran had ever expressed willingness to normalize ties with the United States.

*Editorial Comments on Constructive Reaction

91AS0340B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in English 14 Nov 90 pp 32, 30

[Editorial: "Leader's Stances a Manifestation of Principled Approaches"]

[Text] With disputes just quelling down among certain internal factions, we have left behind a new experience of political and cultural encounters. But delegating the task of reading out the message of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on 4 Nov, on the occasion of the anniversary of the takeover of the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, to Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'iniha has once again paved the way for constructive and unconstructive approaches in the society. This measure of the leader of the Islamic Revolution was precisely a rejection of the approach and misuse by certain persons of the mistakes of the opposition party.

Obviously when political and cultural contests within the society are turned to an arena of dispute for shallow and quarrelsome elements, one cannot expect constructive approach to the ideological encounters because political confrontations stemming from resolving the difficulties would neither be constructive nor reformatory.

What makes reforms and elimination of mistakes more complicated in a society where irresponsible institutions

have not realized their standing, is holding the ground by shallow figures among these political currents.

Unlike the world-wide customs where political currents adopt their stances as the mastermind and reflect it to the body, in Iran low-ranking elements of certain groups adopt stances and compel the high-ranking elements to follow them due to factional dependencies. Therefore, factional links and ideological currents push them to adopt positions which they would never adopt outside the circumstances imposed on them.

Those whose emotions prevail their reasoning are usually overcome with a feeling of revenge and lose their power of analysis. Misusing the statements of the leader of the Islamic Revolution within the past 11 years, with the aim to deprive the rivals of the right of political life, has only caused great rancor. But the wise men of ideological currents should not allow the people affected by such rancor, to unwillingly push them to an unhealthy cultural atmosphere. Certainly the leader's approaches could be the best example in this connection.

This is not an undue expectation from the outstanding political and ideological figures to restrict the activities of shallow-minded elements through active dealing with the political affairs.

Last week, in a chat with a dear friend, I asked why certain elements would be leading a faction which they themselves had doubts about their eligibility? Why a man whom you could not tolerate as a deputy governor general, today is committing actions as a MP [Member of Parliament] far behind the dignity of all members of that faction?

Of course, no political faction is immune to errors and the leadership of the society in proportion to these errors, comes to correct them. But what has made the correcting difficult is the encounter by certain superficial elements from both factions. Questioning such personalities as Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha can be done only by such elements. Even if Mr. Kho'iniha makes a political blunder, there must be a constructive reaction only. And this should be done by those who themselves have not been bitterly attacked by the leader, otherwise it woud only be an attempt to resolve one's complexes rather than a political encounter.

*Editorial Urges Keeping People Informed

91AS0340A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in English 31 Oct 90 pp 32, 30

[Editorial: "People Should Know"]

[Text] Sometimes, even the press fails to clarify current developments and internal policies and prefers to avoid carrying them. Understanding the problem among our colleagues, we can imagine the situation in which our peole are. When the press, for whatever reasons, fails to meet its task, can we expect others to carry out their important duty of keeping the public informed? As was said before, this problem has also erupted in Friday congressional prayers.

In the past, some prayer leaders from time to time were elaborating the problems and informing the people of the latest developments both at home and in the international arena. The present trend has made it more difficult for the government to keep the people informed of affairs. Unfortunately, at present the government's connection with the people does not meet this expectation. Furthermore, there is a lack of speakers who can explain the government's latest decisions on economic, political, cultural, and social questions. It is not clear how the government is going to fill the gap between the people and itself.

Our respectable president, owing to his full schedule, is not able to talk constantly to the people but shouldn't the government be able to let people know of the latest decisions adopted through a speaker? If previously this was not felt much it was perhaps because the rostrums like that of the Friday congressional prayers were informative.

The people do not know exactly if some ministers follow an independent policy in connection with the price increase to gain a sufficient degree of self-management. Are some ministers occupations, apart from their assigned tasks, in harmony with the government's policies? Why is no serious action taken to correct the administrative system?

Of course the government might have enough reasons for its current policies to respond to this and many other questions on internal and external issues, but the lack of constant contact between the people and the government would cause the people to fail to become aware of the reasons behind government decisions. It is clear to anybody that the continuation of the present situation will bring nothing but a lack of social awareness and grounds for rumors to be circulated.

Statements by some Majles deputies indicate that the government has failed to be in touch with the people's representatives. We can expect the active and constructive participation of people of all walks of life in the country's affairs when our people, in principle, are fully aware of what is going on at home. In other words, the people's active participation would come when the government's executive authorities accept the people's judgment of government policies as a fundamental principle.

*Report on 30 Oct Majles Session

91AS0184A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, after remarks by the representatives of Esfahan, Fasa, and Kabutar-Ahang, the Majles session was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks by the pr-agenda speakers and the resolutions of the Majles.

Seyyed Akbar Parvaresh, the Representative of the People of Esfahan

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Seyyed Akbar Parvaresh from the Esfahan constituency.

In a brief statement, he said: Dear brothers and sisters, in view of the fact that I had not spoken in this term of the Majles, I had prepared some notes today in connection with the events of the past few days. After I was informed that our gracious brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri had some discussions with the esteemed Majles speaker and also to respect the wishes of the Majles speaker that no statements be made regarding the present events, I shall cut my speech short and I shall refrain from stating what I had prepared in this regard.

He added: I only wish to extend my endless thanks and appreciation to the sacred presence of the exalted leader of the revolution who, with his encouraging remarks about the Majles—referring to the Majles as exalted and sacred, blew new life into the spirit of the people. No doubt, all of the Majles is ready to obey his orders. This may be best described as the meaning of the following two verses by Hafez: [Meaning of the poems denote the urging of Khamene'i to speak out and be heard by all.]

Hedayatollah Aqa'i, The Representative of the People of Fasa: We Must Safeguard the Individuals Who Are Effectively Supporting the Exalted Leadership

The second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's session of the Majles was Mr. Aqa'i, from the Fasa constituency, who in his remarks stated: The taking-shape of the 4 November 1979 seizure of the U.S. embassy was no more than feeling the danger that was being sensed in that cross-section of time for the Islamic revolution in the year 58 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980]. Three dangerous developments had combined in order to dry the roots of the revolution and present the Islamic revolution to America. The first was infiltrators that at that time, due to our lack of organization and the fact that our revolution had not yet taken shape, had infiltrated even the most sensitive posts. These infiltrators had been able to enter at the level of cabinet ministers and sensitive and key posts and even in the Majles. They had been able to shuffle themselves among religious and political figures.

The second trend was liberal ideas which existed before the revolution. Also, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, they existed in the minds of some individuals in various shapes and forms. Specifically, the provisional government and the prime minister at the time were advocates of this thought. They were in full coordination with the first trend, supporting them willingly or unwillingly and were allowing them into the revolution.

Continuing this classification, he stated: The third trend, which at that time was extremely active, was capitalists precepts. Regretfully, some individuals consider a difference between domestic capitalism and foreign capitalism and this is not correct. There are no foreign or domestic capitalist ideas and capitalist mentality. It is only possible that their connections may be more or less or strong or weak but these, within the scope of international capitalism, need to join hands to succeed.

The representative of the people of Fasa recounted the fate of these three trends as follows: Anyhow, these three trends were active in those days and wished to pull the revolution, willing or unwilling, onto the lap of America and the West. The first group, meaning the infiltrators, were revealed by documents seized from the American den of spies by the brave and Muslim students, followers of the imam's line. In those days, these documents were being revealed one after another through the mass media and as they were displayed as a result of the strong sensitivity of his eminence the imam, these infiltrators could not see a place for themselves in the revolution and were eliminated, shunned, escaped, or arrested. Also, liberal ideas, which were mostly inherent in the freedom movement and groups affiliated with this movement, were ostracized and isolated by the people.

However, since the third trend—capitalist precepts—has possessed a complicated structure, regretfully, some remnants of its roots have remained and may pose grave dangers in the future.

We feel relatively confident about the first two trends, although they should not be underestimated and should be carefully watched in the future. The new infiltrators may be new liberal ideas that can enter the Islamic revolution in newer forms. However, as for capitalist ideas, since they have regretfully taken religious shape and attire, confronting them has been and will be more difficult.

In another part of his remarks, he pointed out: In order to reenter the Islamic revolution, these may utilize several levers. One is to identify figures who have entered the revolutionary movement directly and oppose American moves. Today and in these remarks, I have no specific intention and my views do not cover a special person or a specific faction. However, I wish to remind and warn all the dear ones who support the Islamic revolution about a danger. It is conceivable that even I, as well as others, willingly or unwillingly, fall prey to such ideas and intentionally portray people who have laid down their lives and honors in the path of struggle against America as the main enemy who are, indeed, worse than America and the anti-revolution. This way, God forbid, we may paralyze the revolution ourselves. This may be their first move and we may very well witness this in the future.

The second move that might be utilized is using the people and their vulnerabilities. They may try to resort to a kind of demagoguery in places where people pay less attention and thus resort to character assassination and smear campaigns. These are the dangers we have before us.

Fortunately, today among our sincere and revolutionary forces, we do not have such an element or axis that supports capitalism or wishes to implement such a mechanism. What I state here merely concerns those who act behind the scenes and it is possible that, God forbid, they will drag the people and our forces in this direction.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker referred to supporting the leadership and said: Firstly, we must maintain our own faces and support the exalted leadership by any means, because he must be and is the point of the offensive struggle with America—along with the forces standing behind him, especially those who acted and did not just talk.

In conclusion, he said: Today, the Majles is proud that among its ranks, it has forces that were the spokesmen for the students following the imam's line. Those who lost their hands in the struggle against Israel. Those who engaged in actual struggle. We must keep these figures, and the Majles is proud that it has such figures in its ranks to whom America is sensitive.

Fazel Hamadani, the Representative of the People of Kabutar-Ahang: Why Should We Raise the Credit Ceiling of an Organization Incapable of Absorbing Its Budget as a Result of Shortages of Building Materials

Mr. Fazel Hamadani, the representative of the people of Bahar and Kabutar-Ahang, was the last pre-agenda speaker who, at the onset of his remarks, thanked Mr. Larrubi in connection with his request to put an end to recent arguments.

He then said: Talking absolutes and following the movements of a faction, without any condition or reservation, will not bear any result better than this. Since man is not in control to maintain balance and remain monotone without challenges and blunders, and because he is not ever-lasting but, instead, possesses preferential growth, overemphasis on supporting a line or a faction is condemned in Islam. Supporting a specific line will blind the talents, conceal the facts, destroy courage and bravery, and cause man to move without any will or decision and without knowing where he is headed and the Holy Koran says: "And to where are you headed?" It is due to this, that instead of giving room to live and active people, we shed tears on their dead bodies. As a result, we conduct a glorious funeral for the late 'Ata'i, the esteemed governor general of West Azarbaijan. Such is due to communication shortcomings, which prohibit the recognition of competent managers while they are alive. In an environment filled with factional gains, no one dares to initiate a new talk or a new move because if it concerns cooperatives and the public sector, the speaker will be accused of belonging to one faction, and if the talk is about the private sector and its desirable quality, then the speaker will be accused of supporting the bazaar faction. This is consideration of the fact that we saw, during the previous term, one who was in appearance supporting the bazaar and finally lost his life and home in following this path and the wealthy bazaaris did not pay him any attention either.

Continuing, he criticized the resumption of Iran-England ties and said: In this sickly environment filled with factional games, no one dares to ask the minister of foreign affairs, "You who talk about the resumption of ties with England and are trying to reopen the embassies, have you any plan about the dedicated and active brother Dr. Mehrdad Kowkabi in England who has four children? What is your plan concerning his trial, which is scheduled for 15 October 1990?" [Date as published] If one asks such questions, one might be accused of supporting a specific faction. However, when questions are not asked and performances of ministers are not evaluated, naturally, no more excitement and fervor may be observed in the society and organizations will not be willing to submit their reports. His Holiness Imam 'Ali (peace be upon him) said: "Endurance of knowledge is possible through organization." The science of politics and awareness remains alive and well when subjected to debate, discussion, and criticism. Otherwise, if we consider all to be good and faultless, without healthy competition and without the services of religious companies, it will be a lifeless and stale society which, "although not dead, one must shed tears for the living" and, "like a mill stone, it rotates and comes back to the same point." His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him) said: "When those who serve and the treacherous are looked upon with the same eye, there will be no hope for that society."

Mr. Fazel Hamadani considered the discussion of criticism and critique as necessary and, in connection with economic issues, said: Nowadays, one of the country's specific problems is the economic problem. Brothers and sister who are ready to participate in the discussions! Come and participate in the discussions about the economic problems of our society, because it is known to every illiterate and literate person, city-dwellers as well as villager, that economic policies have nearly come to a dead-end. To get out of this quagmire, come and let us have discussions and debates—since the debate for the budget for the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] is approaching. It must be asked, what organization has been able to absorb its budget? If it has been done, then it must be encouraged. Or, why should we raise the credit ceiling of an organization incapable of absorbing its budget as a result of shortages of building materials. During the war, the excuse was that our country is at war and does not have the capability of absorbing large capital. What about today? Should we wait again and lose the chance, while hoping for a hidden hand to come out from the unknown and help us? For God's sake, think about the people...these bare-foot and overwhelmed people. How long can we continue to give

hope to the people about housing, low salaries, and having a minimum standard of living? An average family is incapable of arranging a child's wedding and putting together a small dowry. Let's think of the downtrodden. I don't mean to say that the economy is rudimentary, but we have all accepted the fact that, in the superpowers' cold-war, economic issues are the most decisive weapon. Nowadays, what shapes policies and has transformed Saddam into a hero is economic matters and not military matters. Nowadays, it does not phase superpowers to jump into fire and water for the sake of territorial gains. However, they think that by controlling economic lifelines and creating multi-national corporations, they can better suck the blood of oppressed nations without anyone even noticing this. After 12 years of the Islamic revolution and possessing all those rich resources, we have not yet come up with a general economic strategy for the regime and we do not know how open or closed the economy should be!

The speaker also added: Haven't we studied that in the educational system a balance between fear and hope must be maintained? The Holy Koran describes and divides the prophets into messengers of hope and Nazarites [a preacher or doom]. Why should we advocate such hopelessness among the people by stating that all this time the government has not done anything? If nothing has been done, then why is this country known as a turning point and a model of stability in the world? Or, give so much hope to the people by claiming that all is well and the affairs are progressing as planned—to be optimistic about all the officials of the country to the point that criticism and overseeing are abolished and every manager can act in any way he desires? I shall quote the imam who said: "I suggest to the Majles, the government, and all those involved, know the value of this nation. Servants should not be short in their services to them, especially the downtrodden, the deprived, and those who have suffered injustice, for they are the light of our eyes and the masters of all our blessings. The Islamic Republic is their achievement and has been realized through their selflessness, and its survival also shall depend upon their services."

The representative of the people of Kabutar-Ahang concluded his statements by quoting the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution when he said: "I tell both factions to refrain from what might cause you to go one way and the nation another."

The Majles Speaker's Remarks

After the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers, in a short speech, Mr. Karrubi thanked the Majles deputies for their acceptance of his plea to end the recent arguments and expressed hope that, through the correct operation of the appropriate officials, the causes and roots of such discussions shall no longer exist in the society.

Edicts

The report by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday's open session of the Majles indicates that the report of the first round of deliberations by the trade and distribution affairs commission, concerning the bill entailing the guidelines for exports and imports, which had begun during the previous session, was tabled as the first item on the agenda of the session. After remarks by the proponents and the opponents and the explanations of the commerce minister, its generalities were passed by the deputies.

The second item on the agenda was the report by the education and training commission concerning the request of a number of the Majles deputies for investigation and study of the operations of the esteemed minister of education and training. This report was read by Mr. Qomi. The text of the said report is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

"The issue of culture, education, and training is at the top of the national issues. If cultural and educational problems can be solved as national interest necessitates, other issues can be solved easily." [quote from] Imam Khomeyni

"The issue of culture, education, and training is the foremost issue in the regime and, in the long term, none other possesses the significance of culture, education, and training." [quote from] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i

The Education and Training Ministry is a massive organization which is composed of about 15 million students and 750,000 personnel. It has schools in far corners of the country and abroad and nearly two-thirds of the government employees are comprised of education employees.

It plays a fundamental role in the Five-Year Plan for training and securing man power. The need for paying attention to education and training is obvious, since over 30 Majles deputies have requested an investigation and study into issues concerning education and training.

After investigations in commissions, in the presence of the esteemed Minister of Education and Training, His Excellency Dr. Najafi, and some of the signatories, the following subjects are being presented to the Majles.

A. Motivations for investigation and study: The plan for investigation and studies concerning the Ministry of Education and Training, considering the above and based on the following motivations, is offered to the Majles deputies:

1. Repeated notices and questions of many of the esteemed deputies concerning the education and training problems of constituencies.

2. Dispatch of complaints, petitions, and many letters by the people, teachers, principals, and officials calling for investigation into education and training affairs.

3. Publication of worrisome news in bulletins and secret newsletters concerning the sorry state of schools in various regions and provincial offices of education and training.

4. Existence of tension, unruliness, and worries at regional levels and within provincial directorate generals and the society for wide-spread appointments and removal in various levels of the education and training organization.

5. Objections and worries of the students' parents and teachers concerning:

a. Shortages and the lack of timely distribution of textbooks.

b. Receiving tuition without justification.

c. Failure of timely reopening of a noticeable number of schools.

d. Holding classes without teachers.

Concerning appointments and removals, despite the significance and need for stability and job security for managers, especially in the reconstruction period and maintaining the dedicated, specialist, and experienced forces, many reports and complaints indicative of wide-spread appointments and removals in various central and executive levels of the Ministry of Education and Training have been received. These are presented in two parts. It should be noted that these changes concern the tenure of His Excellency Mr. Najafi and have been submitted to the commission by the deputies requesting the investigation.

Qualitative Discussion

A. Widespread changes at the Headquarters level of the Ministry: For example, replacing deputy ministers—the deputy for human resources, the deputy for education, the deputy for administration and finance, the deputy for legal and Majles affairs, and the deputy for planning. And the resignation of officials—the director general for examinations, the director general for budget, the director general for administrative affairs, the director general of services, the director general of cooperatives, the director general of in-service, the administrator of the office of teacher training, the director general of the office of consultation and research, the director general of research, and the director general of printing and distribution.

B. Widespread changes at the level of management and deputies of provincial directorate generals of education and training: For instance, based on the reports that have been received, it should be noted that over 70 percent of the provincial director generals have been changed during the tenure of His Excellency Mr. Najafi as the minister. Mostly, this trend has continued to the lowest levels.

There have been widespread changes at the level of officials and deputies for various regions of education and training in the country. Based on the reports that have been received, in one of the provinces, during the recent year, from 46 regional administrators, about 40 have changed, and in one of the directorate generals, from 20 educational regions, 13 regional officials have been changed. In one of the country's important and sensitive provinces, nearly 200 officials occupying key posts in the education and training organization, such as regional deputies, officials of regional teacher training, officials of sections, and educational cycles have been changed.

Qualitative Discussion of Appointments and Removals

Our late gracious imam prescribed such standards as piety, jihad, specialization, dedication, and experience as requirements for occupation of sensitive and key posts. Also, the exalted leadership has emphasized strengthening the Hezbollahi forces. However, reports are indicative of the disregard for the aforementioned standards in the appointment of some officials and managers. In some cases, problematic and nonconfident individuals have been utilized in sensitive posts. In this regard, I direct the attention of the esteemed deputies to the following points:

1. Disregarding the principle of selection of the best in many appointments and removals in a way that the appointees in comparison with those who have been removed, have been considerably weaker in dedication, capability, specialization, management, experience, and familiarity with the problems of education and training. For example, the appointment of a person holding a high school diploma to the post of provincial director general to replace an individual with bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

2. Utilization of forces unfamiliar with and ignorant of the issues of educational training.

3. Elimination of many experienced and capable managers from the ranks of the Hezbollah who are mostly familiar with the culture of jihad and martyrdom and are related to the exalted families of martyrs.

4. Appointment of forces lacking adequate qualifications in key posts. Appointment of an individual in the position of provincial director general, of which there is much evidence of his subversive group affiliations. Employment of an individual in the position of provincial director general, despite the evidence pointing to his membership in the defunct Rastakhiz party.

Management Operation

A. Educational affairs: In the educational system, the pass-fail percentage is one of the indications of the level of success or failure of educational programs. In a way, an increase in the percentage of those who pass reflects

the increased successes of programs and conversely, the elevation of the failure rate is indicative of the failure of educational programs.

The received reports are indicative of an increase in the failure rate in the 68-69 academic year [23 September 1989-21 June 1990]. In order to depict the appearance of an increase in the past rate, the ministry resorted to increasing, by several points, the grades for some subjects (according to ministerial directives) and holding re-examinations for those who failed in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] during the month of Mehr [23 September-222 October].

B. Registration and tuition: Considering that the people, in accordance with the Constitution, perceive education as free, and the education and training officials have repeatedly declared the charging of tuition in public schools to be illegal, receiving high tuitions under the guise of registration qualifications for up to 100,000 tomans per year has been the cause of worries and dissatisfaction among parents. At times, this has resulted in confrontations between the parents and the education and training officials. This has appeared in the form of a social and political problem—in which connection the letter of the esteemed governorate general of Tehran is indicative of the existence and widespread extent of this problem in the society. In addition to charging tuition, other issues such as grade point average qualifications and unauthorized entrance examinations in public schools have posed serious problems in the issue of student registration.

It should be noted that in order to legitimize the charging of tuition, contrary to the explicit ordinance of the Constitution, guidelines for experimental implementation of a plan have been issued by the ministry.

In this connection, many complaints from the noble people and the esteemed deputies have been received reflecting the attitude of school principals at the time of registration.

C. Inappropriate confrontations and their results:

1. Inducing an atmosphere of dissatisfaction, tension, and turmoil in some of the regions and provincial directorate generals.

2. Clashes between managers and their colleagues and the people—contrary to the sacred position and environment of education and training—which, in some instances, have resulted in the interference of law enforcement forces and judicial authorities.

3. Creation of an atmosphere of disappointment, which has caused the resignation and isolation of capable forces.

4. Inappropriate and immoral clashes far from Islamic management principles.

D. Nullification of guidelines and directives such as disregarding the points of the resolutions passed by the executive headquarters concerning witness, registration, transfer, and others [as published].

E. Failure to follow-up and implement the law for securing housing for teachers with loans under the four percent rate passed by the Majles.

F. Failure to pay adequate attention to the views of experts in decision-makings and setting policies for education and training.

Investigation into the methods of dispatching teachers abroad to schools overseas: In view of the complaints and objections received, the necessity for developing guidelines and the methods of their implementation to dispatch teachers to schools abroad seems critical.

Operation and investigation of the headquarters for fundamental transformation of the education and training system:

A. The lack of any noticeable improvement in arranging the premises for implementation of the plan for fundamental change in the education and training system.

B. Changing the plan for the fundamental transformation of the system to correcting the intermediate system and thus practically abandoning the original plan as was passed by the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council and despite the emphases of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni (God bless him and grant him salvation) and the exalted leadership.

Investigation Concerning Composition, Publication, and Distribution of Textbooks

The failure to publish texts, especially for the intermediate level, and the creation of an atmosphere of displeasure and worry among the parents of students.

- A delay in the distribution of textbooks, such that many students went through the month of Mehr [23 September-22 October] without having any books, and the problem still persists.
- Using books from previous years and failure to compensate for shortages resulting from the return of books and an increase in the number of students.
- Political and training instructional deficiencies resulting from the distribution of returned books by students of previous years has caused problems in schools.
- Failure to take serious action in regard to the composition of behavioral goals of texts, which are very important in curriculum planning.
- A disproportionate relationship between the volume of some textbooks and teaching hours.
- A disproportionate relationship between the volume and contents of some of the textbooks and the learning abilities of the students.
- The lack of any attention to the advise and views of informed individuals concerning the need for a review in school textbooks, including religious books.

After reading the Education and Training Commission's report concerning the need for implementation of an investigation and study, the request for investigation and study was put to vote and was approved by the deputies.

The names of the petitioners requesting investigation and study are as follows: Fakhreddin Hejazi, 'Ateqeh Sediqi (Raja'i), Hazrati, 'Abbas Duzduzani, Dastgheyb, Mohammad Ra'isi, 'Ali Mohammad Gharibani, 'Abdolvahed Musavi-Lari, Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, Baqerinezhad, Zabihollah Safa'i, Najafqoli Habibi, Sa'id Taslimi, al-Hoseyni, Seyyed Rasul Musavi, Razavi-Yazdi, Asghar Nowruzi, Mohammad Qomi, Sahmi-Hesari, Mozaffarinezad, Asgharzadeh, Rahchamani, Hadidchi-Dabbagh, Najafi, and several other illegible signatures.

The last item on the agenda of yesterday session was the report of the second round of deliberations of the post, telegraph, and telephone affairs commission concerning the plan for formation of water and sewage companies, which was discussed by the deputies and its Article One was approved.

Based on Article One of this plan, creation and exploitation of installations for urban water distribution and also collection, transfer, and treatment of urban sewage within the legal boundaries of cities in every province shall be the task of an independent company by the name of "the Provincial Water and Sewer Company," which shall be formed by the Ministry of Energy.

Note One: In case, based on the evaluation of the Ministry of Energy, the need for the formation of independent water and sewer companies in other cities of the same province exists, several water and sewer companies may be formed in accordance with the guidelines of this law.

Note Two: The water and sewer company of each province can, as may be needed and with the approval of the board of directors, act to form companies in other cities of the same province and shall transfer all or some of its authorities to such a company.

Note Three: Implementation of plans for securing and transferring water, as may be required and in accordance with the capability and request of water and sewer companies, shall be delegated to these companies.

Note Four: Exploitation of all drinking water installations, including treatment facilities, transfer lines, control systems resources, and others, shall be the task of water and sewer companies. The continuation of investigation of this plan was postponed until the next session.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister on Indian Missile Program

BK2412091290 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan is taking practical steps to maintain and strengthen its defense preparedness to meet the challenges and threats posed to its security. He was making a statement in the Senate today on an adjournment motion moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmed regarding the Indian missile program and its implications for Pakistan. He said we are viewing with concern India's (?reported) missile development activity which is a grave threat not only to the security of Pakistan, but also to regional and international peace and stability as well.

The foreign minister assured that the government was conscious of its responsibilities to maintain a deterrent capability and the armed forces were fully alive to the need to adopt counter measures.

After statement by the foreign minister, the mover did not press the motion on the assurance that the foreign minister will consult the Ministry of Defense as to how to debate the issue in more details in the house.

Professor Khurshid Ahmed also did not press another adjournment motion after the statement of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan that no important documents relating to defense and security of Pakistan were found missing from the Foreign Office. The chair [speaker] asked the standing committee on information and broadcasting of the house to check the news items in question with the newspapers which carried it.

Khan Statement on Indian Troops Clarified

BK2412091090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said in Islamabad that the foreign minister's statement in the Senate on Saturday [22 December] on the Indian troop deployment at Pakistan's border and the Line of Control [in Kashmir] was not reported correctly in a section of the press. The spokesman said Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in fact, had said that this matter had come under discussion at the recent meeting between the foreign secretaries and Pakistan had described the current deployment of troops as inappropriate.

The spokesman added that the foreign minister had stated that the final decision had not been reached at the meeting, but it was agreed that the directors general of military operations of the two countries would remain in regular weekly telephone contact to discuss the situation regarding deployment of troops so as to eliminate the possibility of any flare up or explosion due to the troops position.

Foreign Secretary Comments on Talks With India

BK2112134890 Lahore THE NATION in English 21 Dec 90 pp 1,12

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan and India have agreed to formally exchange the agreements already signed and ratified regarding not attacking each other's nuclear installations in the next month (January). The place for exchange of agreement will, however, be finalised later.

This was stated by the Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India, Mr Shahryar Khan and Mr Muchkund-Dubey, while talking to newsmen here at Islamabad International Airport on Thursday [20 December] before the departure of Indian Foreign Secretary for New Delhi at the conclusion of the four-day visit.

Citing the specific issues on which India and Pakistan have reached an agreement, Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr Shahryar Khan said Pakistan and India have also agreed to ask their respective Surveyor-Generals to meet in early February to discuss Sir Creek issue (territorial waters). It is important that our borders should be absolutely clear and well-defined to avoid any kind of misunderstanding, he added.

He said: "We have also agreed to meet towards the end of February next year for the fourth round of talks in New Delhi." A meeting of experts will be held a week before to finalise two agreements regarding advance notice of military exercises by the two sides and the question of the violation of airspace, Mr Shahryar said.

Mr Shahryar said: "We have also agreed during the talks to take up the Wullar Barrage issue soon after the dates are fixed in the context of Indus Water Treaty which has been a success in resolving differences in the past."

Mr Shahryar Khan said it has been agreed by the two countries that the army officials of India and Pakistan dealing with operations will contact each other every week alternatively. This agreement, he said is aimed at reducing tension between the two countries.

Responding to a question, he said the talks were held in a frank and friendly atmosphere and "we took our cue from the excellent start made in this regard by the Prime Minister of India and Pakistan at the tiem of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Summit at Male (Madives)."

He said that the two sides discussed all the differences on various issues frankly.

Replying to a question, the Foreign Secretary said Pakistan wants to reduce the tension. Nothing can be achieved by the two countries to a "near conflict situation" and sooner it is realised better it would be.

Responding to yet another question, he expressed the hope that his visit to New Delhi in February next year for the fourth round of talks will greatly help reduce tension through further fruitful discussion

Speaking on the occasion, the India-Foreign Secretary, Mr Muchkund Dubey, described the talks "very cordial" and endorsed the viewpoint of his Pakistani counterpart Mr Shahryar, that they were helped in reaching understanding by the guidelines given to them by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan from their meeting held at Male.

He said: "We have managed this time to agree on a number of specific agreements which will have many positive implications in the realisation of our objectives to reduce tension beween the two countries and in normalisation of relations."

Bhutto Offers Cooperation If Cases Withdrawn

BK2112141090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Dec 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20—The leader of opposition in the National Assembly Ms. Benazir Bhutto has offered full cooperation to Nawaz Sharif's Government and pleaded in favour of bipartisan approach in dealing with pressing national problems like Kashmir, Aghanistan, nuclear programme and deteriorating economic conditions.

She said such cooperation would be available to the government provided it clearly proved that it was working for the promotion and establishment of democratic process in the country. To prove its intentions, the government, she said should first of all withdraw all criminal and other cases instituted against political leaders and workers, disband the disqualification tribunals, stop destabilising the Azad Kashmir government and call off the massive retrenchment of government employees.

Talking to a group of correspondents in her Assembly chamber, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chairperson said if the leader of the opposition was disqualified, the National Assembly would be reduced to a non-party house, affecting the very basis of the democratic process.

Describing the current economic situation as very serious she proposed establishing a joint team of experts consisting [of] politicians and the technocrats to work out an economic strategy as the technocrats alone had never been and would never be able to resolve the serious economic problems. She said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had remained sole in charge of running the national economy as a technocrat during Ziaul Haq's time. But he created a mess and damaged the country's economy. Technocrats, she said, could only be useful if they work in close collaboration with the politicians, who represent the people and are aware of their problems.

She said in view of seriousness of the economic conditions prevailing in the country she was even ready to forget the fraudulent elections through which the present government was brought into power. The miseries and sufferings of the people, she said, were more important to her than the seat of power. "We are ready to cooperate

with the government in finding out solutions to the problems so that the people of Pakistan could be saved from the worst economic crisis the country was facing."

She asked for bridging the rising deficit in the budget and for strict control over the money expansion. "If we continue to print currency and did nothing to curtail the deficit in the budget there would be a massive devaluation, totally eroding the value of our currency," she said, and demanded immediate reduction in the non-development expenditure and exercising austerity in all fields.

She said that when in August this year her government was illegally dismissed "the country's foreign exchange reserves were at 600 million dollars and we had plans to increase them to 750 million dollars by December. But today we have only 28 million dollars in reserves and are not able to pay for our essential imports." The import of fertilizer, she said was badly affected and today adulterated fertilizer was being sold to the farmers which she said would result into at least a 10 percent reduction in production.

Describing the foreign assistance as essential for the development of the country, she said, such assistance should always be welcomed if it contained no strings and did not compromise the sovereignty. The US financial assistance was suspended because of irresponsible statements by some bureaucrats regarding the country's nuclear capability, she claimed. She said Israel and Brazil have the nuclear capability but none of them openly claimed that it had atomic bomb. Pakistan on the other hand, she said, neither had the bomb nor intended to make it, but some of "our people" made such irresponsible declarations which in fact had helped enemies to launch effective progaganda against Pakistan, providing an excuse to the US president to refuse certification of peaceful nuclear programme.

Criticising the privatisation policy being followed by the government, she said financial institutions like banks should in no case be handed over to those who succeeded in getting huge bank loans written off. She regretted that permission for bank in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] was being given to a well-connected family whose members are known defaulters to a number of banks.

Restrictions on Gasoline Sales Withdrawn

BK2212144090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] All restrictions on the operation of gasoline pumps and other oil outlets for the sale of gasoline have been withdrawn by the government with immediate effect. Announcing this at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, minister for petroleum and natural resources, said all these outlets will work around the clock seven days a week as before. He pointed out that the decision has been taken by the government after careful review of the whole situation.